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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Shaposhnikov Chairs Meeting of CIS Defense Ministers

LD2702101693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0926 GMT 27 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Feb—The meeting of defense ministers of the CIS states which signed the collective security treaty, begins today in Moscow and can be called an attempt to convert the collective security treaty from a political declaration into an instrument for tackling urgent defense issues. Just before the meeting, which is taking place behind closed doors, Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Unified Armed Forces, who is presiding at it, stated: "We need to work out unified approaches to the forthcoming meeting of CIS heads of state at the end of April and to the session of the Interparliamentary Assembly so as to put forward concrete proposals and an improved system of collective security."

The meeting is being attended by Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Manukyan; Kazakhstan Defense Minister Sagadat Nurbagambetov; Major General Dzhanibek Umetaliyev, chairman of Kyrgyzstan's State Committee for Defense Matters; Russian Deputy Defense Minister Boris Gromov; Major General Farrukh Niyazov, deputy chief of staff of the CIS Unified Armed Forces and the representative of the Republic of Tajikistan; Uzbekistan Deputy Defense Minister Rumil Khadyrbayev; the plenipotentiary representatives of these republics in Moscow; and military experts.

Joint Defense Capability Discussed

LD2702115793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1010 GMT 27 Feb 93

["Conference of CIS Defense Ministers Opens in Moscow—Addendum"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] [No dateline as received] Three sets of questions are being discussed at the conference of defense ministers of the six CIS states which signed the collective security treaty, the ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the Public Information Center of the Main Commissariat of the CIS Unified Armed Forces. In line with the instruction of the Council of the CIS Heads of States, dated 22 January 1993, the main areas of coordination of the joint activity of the Commonwealth member states in raising defense capability and deepening military cooperation, and also measures to implement accords on military issues, will be discussed.

At the suggestion of the Main Commissariat of the CIS Unified Armed Forces, the ministers are also discussing the main principles and conditions under which personnel having a different citizenship may serve in the armed forces of the CIS member states. The organization of joint printed publications is also under discussion.

At the recommendation of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, which took place in St. Petersburg on 29 December, and in accordance with the decision of the Council of CIS Defense Ministers, dated 4 September 1992, the heads of military departments will discuss the drawing up of legislative acts on matters of defense and progress in the realization of interstate agreements on social and legal protection of servicemen and their families.

Russia's Defense Ministry submitted for examination by the meeting a draft agreement "On the Use of the Military Satellite Communication Systems and Their Further Improvement."

Moreover, as the ITAR-TASS correspondent learned from reliable sources, it is possible that the heads of the military departments of the CIS member states which signed the collective security treaty will today discuss the possibility of setting up a regional association of the CIS Armed Forces within the borders occupied by the Turkestan military district which was abolished after the disintegration of the Union. According to preliminary estimates by military experts, this group could be made up of formations and units of the national armies of the four Central Asian CIS states, Kazakhstan, and also of a few Russian subunits. It is envisaged that these units, without change of status or national jurisdiction, may be placed under the general leadership of the Chief Command of the CIS Unified Armed Forces, making the collective security treaty more effective.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the Main Commissariat of the CIS Unified Armed Forces that the information on the final results of today's conference will be promulgated on Monday [1 March] at a news conference by Air Force Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Unified Armed Forces.

Shaposhnikov on Main Issues

LD2702132293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] [Announcer] A conference of the defense ministers of the CIS states that signed the collective security treaty is being held in Moscow today. Correspondent Sokolova reports:

[Sokolova] There are three main issues on the agenda of today's conference.

[Begin Shaposhnikov recording] The main issue is the issue of the collective security system or the collective security treaty, which was signed in Tashkent on 15 May. The point is that we signed it as a declaration of intent, I would say, but we did not resolve the question of mechanisms and all the other issues. [end recording]

[Sokolova] The question of the basic principles and conditions of serving in the armed forces of the CIS states for servicemen having foreign citizenship will also be tackled. There will be discussion of draft legislation on the socio-legal protection of servicemen and members of their families.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified journalist] Is the absence of the defense minister of Tajikistan connected with the situation in the republic?

[Shaposhnikov] Naturally. Of course. I think that more important tasks are being tackled there now, although Tajikistan is represented here. [end recording]

Ministers Adopt All Documents

LD2702180693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1636 GMT 27 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—The need for military integration was stressed by the defense ministers of the CIS countries today after the signing of a treaty on collective security. The ministers were in conference at the headquarters of the commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces. For comment on the outcome of the meeting, ITAR-TASS approached Lieutenant General Leonid Ivashov, secretary to the CIS Council of Defense Ministers, who said that all seven documents due for examination had been adopted.

An important event at the conference was the debate on the main ways in which the CIS countries should work together to improve defense capabilities and expand military cooperation. The ministers decided to establish a working commission to prepare draft agreements on how to implement the treaties on collective security and joint armed forces. This will involve the establishment of a single air defense system, the possible regional amalgamation of CIS armed forces in theaters of war, and other matters. The drafts will be agreed on by the ministers and will be submitted to the council of CIS heads of state in Yerevan on 28 April.

Lt. Gen. Ivashov praised the meeting as "extremely constructive and productive." He added: "The military can and should show an example of integration to the politicians."

Debate on Structure of Armed Forces

LD2702190193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 27 Feb 93

[By correspondent Sokolova; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The first meeting of the defense ministers of CIS states—signatories to the collective security treaty—took place today at the General Staff of the CIS Joint Armed Forces. The meeting focused on the coordination of joint activities of CIS member states in increasing defense potential and deepening military cooperation.

There are two ways to resolve this question. Only Russia and Uzbekistan favored the establishment of a defense structure similar to that of the Warsaw Treaty; Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan voted to create an interstate, coordinating, NATO-type military body. A commission chaired by Colonel Samsonov, chief of staff of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, was instructed to complete the relevant document.

Shaposhnikov on Declining Military Production

OW2802175093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1729 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chief commander of CIS Armed Forces, Air Force Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, believes that if the Russian government does not pay serious attention to the defense industry, within a few years it will be impossible to revive the industry. Within the last 2-3 years the production of all forms of military equipment has declined by at least 5000%, and some indicators show the decline to be as high as 10,000%, claimed the marshal in a conversation with an Interfax correspondent. He feels the situation is largely due to the disintegration which is occurring within the CIS. The marshal pointed out that 700 enterprises have to be in operation to produce 1 tank, and that of these 700 only 469 are located on Russian territory.

Shaposhnikov said he plans to meet with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in the very near future to try to solve these problems.

Draft Agenda for 12 Mar Prime Ministers Conference

OW2602172393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1601 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Experts from CIS countries have drafted the preliminary agenda for the meeting of the heads of governments of CIS countries which is due to begin on March 12 in Moscow's "President Hotel."

According to the information available at the Russian MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs], the draft of the agenda (likely to be changed) contains 16 items. Interfax is providing this document unabridged.

1. On the economic development of CIS countries in 1992. (report by CIS Statistical Committee)

2. On the draft statute of the CIS Coordinating and Consultative Committee (to be presented by the CIS authorized representatives in the Working Group of the Council of the CIS Heads of States and Heads of Governments).

3. On measures for protection of industrial property and institution of the Inter-State Council for Protecting Industrial Property (to be presented by Russia and CIS experts).

4. On coordinating anti-monopoly policy (to be presented by Russia).

5. On exchange of economic-related information (to be presented by Russia).

6. On cooperation in veterinary problems (to be presented by Russia).

7. On the Inter-State Coordinating Council of the Inter-State TV and Radio Broadcasting Company (MTPK). On MTPK authorized capital and working relations with Russia's "Ostankino" TV and Radio Broadcasting Company (to be presented by the MTPK Founding Committee).

8. On development of the CIS radio navigation systems (to be presented by Russia and CinC [commander in chief], CIS JAF [Joint Armed Forces]).

9. On utilization of military satellite communications systems and their development (to be presented by Russia and CinC, CIS JAF).

10. On preparations for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Russia's victory in the Great Patriotic War 1941-1945 (to be presented by CIS authorized representatives and CinC, CIS JAF).

11. On joint actions in promoting the activities of defense athletic and technical organizations/societies of the CIS countries (to be presented by representatives of defense athletic and technical organizations/societies of the CIS countries).

12. On measures for combating organized crime (to be presented by CIS ministers of the interior).

13. On mutual acknowledgement of the right to privileged transport fares for war invalids, veterans of the Great Patriotic War and persons with the status equal to them (to be introduced by authorized representatives of the CIS countries).

14. On division of state-owned non-naval ships (to be presented by Belarus).

15. On the plan of work of the Council of the CIS Heads of State and the Council of the CIS Heads of Governments for 1193 (to be presented by the working group of the Council of CIS the Heads of State and the Council of the CIS Heads of Governments).

16. On the time and place of the next session of the Council of the CIS Heads of Governments. (to be presented by the working group of the Council of the CIS Heads of State and the Council of the CIS Heads of Governments).

The circles close to the Russian government do not exclude a possibility that the prime ministers of the six countries - signatories of the Collective Security Agreement (Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) will also address measures for raising the level of their defensive capabilities.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: In the words of the Commander in Chief CIS Joint Armed Forces, Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, CIS experts are also discussing options for setting up a special collective security committee which would include the heads of states and heads of governments of the six countries - signatories of the Collective Security Agreement.

Prime Ministers of Former USSR To Meet in Surgut 2 Mar

OW0103121393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1059 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's vice-premier Georgiy Khizha arrived in Surgut (Tyumen region) on Monday [1 March] to attend a meeting of Prime Ministers of former USSR republics on the problems of the West Siberian fuel and energy complex and the prospects of investment by former union republics in Russia's fuel and energy complex.

Khizha will most probably lead the delegation of Russians at the meeting instead of Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, who came down with a flu last week-end. As the chief of the RF [Russian Federation] government's press-bureau, Andrey Silantiyev reported to Interfax that Chernomyrdin could hardly travel to Surgut even despite the postponement of the opening session of the Prime Ministers' meeting until March 2.

On March 1, delegates will visit the Fedorovo oil and gas deposit and will familiarize themselves with an exhibition of oil equipment.

The opening session on March 2 is to hear speeches by the chairman of Russia's state committee for economic cooperation with CIS countries, Vladimir Mashchits, and by Russian fuel and energy minister Yuriy Shafranik. Agreements are expected to be signed on the results of the meeting.

According to a special Interfax report, in line with a preliminary agreement, the Prime Minister of Armenia Grant Bagratyan, the Prime Minister of Georgia Tengiz Sigua, the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Sergey Tereshchenko, the Prime Minister of Moldova Andrei Sangheli, the Prime Minister of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma, and the Prime Minister of Tajikistan Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov, will attend the Surgut conference.

The other chief delegates are Mikhail Myasnikovich, the first deputy of Belarus; Kayim Khakkulov, a deputy premier of Uzbekistan; German Kuznetsov, the first vice-premier of Azerbaijan; Agil Rizayev, the head of the main financial department of the Azerbaijani state oil company, and Albertas Sinavicius, the minister for industry and trade of Lithuania.

Also expected to attend are the prime minister of Tatarstan Muhammad Sabirov and the prime minister of

Bashkortostan - Aleksey Kopsov. A delegation of the Komi republic will be led by deputy premier Nikolay Plotskiy.

CIS Coordination Committee To Deal With Economics

WS2602150293 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Feb 93 No. 32 p 1

[Article by newspaper correspondent Viktor Anatolev: "Experts Will Come Back in March"; under the "Fax" rubric]

[Text] The CIS Committee for Coordination and Consultations will become an important body. It will be headed by CIS leaders on the rotation principle.

These are the results of the meeting of CIS experts in Minsk.

As Anvar Makhmudov, permanent Uzbek representative at the CIS, has informed, preliminary projects and their alternatives will be debated in the republics. The next meeting of experts is planned for March.

The decision to set up a committee for coordination and consultations was adopted at the last CIS summit in Minsk. The committee will primarily deal with economic issues.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 27 Feb

LD2702080493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0611 GMT 27 Feb 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 2 TASS—"The U.S. and Russia Again Demonstrate an Ability To Reach Accords" and "Andrey Kozyrev Says Boris Yeltsin Is Certain To Be Invited to a G7 Summit in Tokyo" are the headlines under which today's NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER) frontpages a report by its special correspondent from Geneva about a meeting between the Russian foreign minister and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The newspaper refers to the meeting as a highly fruitful one, pointing out that the talks, which were extended for one hour, resulted in the determination of a date—April 4—for a meeting between President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

In response to questions from the newspaper's special correspondent, Kozyrev said the two sides "have a clear understanding of the need to rule out even a shade of suspicion of a certain artificial pause (concerning meetings between Russian and U.S. leaders) or a lack of the priority nature of such a meeting. We decided on this date because, in the final analysis, not only timing but also the quality of preparations are of importance."

Speaking about a relationship with the Group of Seven (G7), Kozyrev said in particular: "I gather the impression that the question of whether our president will or will not attend the G7 summit in Tokyo is not on the agenda. It has been virtually decided upon."

On the situation in Yugoslavia, Kozyrev remarked that "the similarity of U.S. and Russian position is in that the two sides now lay emphasis on political settlement measures, not military ones."

ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA writes about a CIS prime ministers' meeting which is to open in Surgut on Monday and which is to be attended by the directors of the fuel-and-power sector, processing and engineering plants.

Analysts believe that Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin will do his best to convince his counterparts from the sovereign states that the current prices of oil and gas are an "utter necessity," the newspaper points out.

Meanwhile the directors do not even want to hear about world prices for oil and gas from Russia. According to data given by the Russian Committee for Statistics, the prices of the products of the fuel-and-power sector increased 80-fold over last year alone.

The newspaper TRUD carries an interview with Ramazan Abdulatipov, chairman of the Russian parliament's Council of Nationalities. During the interview dealing with ethnic relations, Abdulatipov expressed confidence that the number of ex-Soviet countries would apply for reintegration as soon as the state of affairs in Russia improves.

Notwithstanding its hard position, Russia gives assistance to everyone, he said. "Both Georgia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Lithuania and Latvia ask Russia to support them. Tendencies towards rejoining Russia are already manifesting themselves in the Crimea, the Dniester region, Abkhazia, and South Ossetia," Abdulatipov pointed out.

"The troubled times will go. It is important that we should not be ashamed of looking one another into the face afterwards," Abdulatipov remarked.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) runs the full text of the Russian Federation law "On Military Duty and Military Service." The newspaper points out that from now on the chance for the serviceman to be outside the legal sphere has been practically reduced to nought.

PRAVDA and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA criticise reforms being effected in Russia. They maintain that the "Russian ship" has ceased to answer controls and is simply drifting amid political and economic waves.

Yeltsin, Clinton 'Most Likely' To Meet in Canada

OW2602173093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1646 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and U.S. President Bill Clinton scheduled for April 4 will most likely be held in Canada. Interfax received this information from one of the high-standing officials in the Russian Foreign Ministry.

In the words of the Russian diplomat, this option is regarded by either side as most convenient.

The agreement that the meeting between the Russian and U.S. Presidents will be staged on April 4 was achieved during the talks in Geneva between Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his U.S. opposite number Warren Christopher. They indicated at the press conference following their meeting that additional consultations would be needed before they could announce officially the site of the summit.

Kozyrev Sees No Change in U.S. Relations

LD2802223393 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1900 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by "Itogi" host Yevgeniy Kiselev in Kozyrev's aircraft returning to Moscow from Denmark on 28 February; from the "Itogi" program—recorded]

[Text] [Kiselev] What about all these allegations that relations between Moscow and Washington have cooled since Clinton entered the White House? This was the starting point of my interview with the Russian minister of foreign affairs which he kindly gave to Itogi in an aircraft on the way back to Moscow. Andrey Vladimirovich, at a press conference after your meeting with Christopher, it was said that the Americans were ready to propose an earlier date for the summit meeting than the agreed date of 4 April. How does this fit the rather frequent assertions of some mass media that Russo-U.S. relations are in decline, that neither of the sides included them in the list of their priorities, especially the U.S. side?

[Kozyrev] They do not fit at all. You see, there is a problem of a kind of masochism and of attempts to create a complex of inferiority in a great people. You see, this is our internal illness. It has nothing to do with either Americans or our Western partners, who always treat Russia as a great power and as their necessary international partner, their irreplaceable partner.

[Kiselev] So, you felt no signs of the decline during the two- hour meeting with Christopher?

[Kozyrev] On the contrary. I always feel a growing desire to cooperate with us in all spheres. Everyone hopes and already sees the dividends, if you like, of peace and cooperation between these powers. The only thing is that our so-called patriots are trying—I repeat, trying—to inculcate some kind of inferiority complex into people's consciousness and are engaged in masochism. According to them, the fact that they lost power, that Russia stopped being a besieged fortress or a kind of a scarecrow in the world, that it does not wish to remain just a supplier of raw materials—which the Soviet Union had always been in relation to the West—but wishes to find its own place in the open world economy, to them all this is national humiliation and catastrophe. No such things exist in reality.

[Kiselev] What about a specific aspect which, as you said at a press conference, was also discussed? I mean here the possibility of Russia entering certain markets for weapons, weapons of certain types—this is how you put it, I think.

[Kozyrev] Yes, you are absolutely right. We are persistent in raising this problem. You see, it is possible now to raise a question about our own place on the market for high technologies, space, and nuclear exports, including arms exports. But all this is only possible between partners. As you understand, no one will provide a place on any market for one's enemy, let's say an ideological enemy.

[Kiselev] You mean here the markets where payments are made in freely convertible currency, the real, live money.

[Kozyrev] You see, the paradox of life, or maybe on the contrary, the truth of life is that the countries which pay in real money or freely convertible currency, as we say, are the most stable. Take for example the Persian Gulf...

[Kiselev, interrupting] Yes, the Abu Dhabi arms market which took place last week.

[Kozyrev] ...we cannot compare it with our former clients. Take for example the same petrodollars, they are stable petrodollars which are guaranteed. No one can ever convince me that Russia's national state interests do not lie in joining the club and the markets of these states, including the market of military technology and other technologies, but that our future and Russia's best interests are in dealing with the poor and, moreover, with political hooligans. Do you see my point?

[Kiselev] Andrey Vladimirovich, one more question which is probably on the minds of many people at present and which is, as it were, one of the topics of the week, in addition to your meeting with Christopher. Active preparation has begun for a G-7 meeting in Tokyo. Did you discuss this question with the secretary of state, and can we definitely say that Yeltsin will go to Tokyo and that this visit will in no way be linked to problems in our bilateral relations, to the Kurils problem, first and foremost?

[Kozyrev] Though one should never speak categorically about the future, I can categorically say: yes. An invitation will be made. Whether he will go or not is a separate issue. The invitation to the G-7 meeting will be issued and there will be no link whatsoever between the agenda—which is cooperation with G-7—and bilateral issues with Japan. This is a categorical yes.

Kozyrev on U.S. Reaction to Yeltsin, Reform Plans

OW2602150193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1426 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Reports by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A summit meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and United States President Bill Clinton has been proposed by an American delegation for 4 April. The delegation also proposed earlier dates, but 4 April was declared better for Moscow, which intends "high-quality" preparations for the summit.

INTERFAX special correspondent Dmitriy Voskoboinikov reports on a conversation between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and a group of Russian journalists on board a flight from Geneva, where Kozyrev met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Kozyrev made it completely clear that even before the Geneva talks, Yeltsin had discussed which dates would be most appropriate for the holding of high-level Russian-American talks, and had expressed his preference.

As before, however, it was unclear where the summit would take place. According to a well-informed member of the Russian delegation, the U.S. would prefer them to be held not in Europe and especially not in such "traditional" places as Geneva, but at a location which would emphasize the proximity of the two countries' borders.

In response to a question from our special correspondent regarding participation by Boris Yeltsin in the Tokyo meeting of the G-7, Kozyrev said that it was his "impression" that the Russian president would probably be invited to the forum. According to the minister, such a decision has already been made, though a formal invitation has not yet been extended.

Speaking about his negotiations with Secretary of State Christopher, Kozyrev said that it was an "unexpected surprise" that the American diplomat evidenced an understanding of Moscow's concern regarding the rights of the Russian-speaking populations of the republics of the former USSR, particularly in the Baltic states. The minister called the journalists' attention to the fact that the secretary of state was one hundred percent in support of the Russian reforms and the policies of President Yeltsin.

In the minister's opinion, it would have been "untimely and awkward" to have made any joint statements on the former Yugoslavia after the Geneva negotiations. The reason given was that special representatives from the two countries, Vitaliy Churkin and Reginald Bartholomew, "were not being substituted for Vance and Lord Owen (the co-chairmen of the Geneva conference - IF [INTERFAX])." At the same time, Kozyrev considered it necessary to stress that there were no "radical differences" between the United States and Russia. Both states are convinced, he said, of the necessity of a political settlement of the Yugoslav crisis. The question of foreign military intervention in the conflict had been "effectively withdrawn from the agenda." Speaking on differences in the political activities of Moscow and Washington, the minister pointed out that "we are doing more work with the Bosnian Serbs and they with the Muslim community." On the whole, he said, contradictions between Russia and the U.S. regarding the Yugoslav crisis had in recent days become significantly less significant.

Touching on regulation of the situation in the Middle East, Kozyrev spoke favorably of Christopher's recent visit to the region. Nevertheless, he said, the United States was entirely conscious of the fact that without Russian participation, "a final breakthrough" in the negotiations would be impossible.

Moscow's intention to make a contribution to the process was suggested by the minister's report that a group of important visitors would soon be visiting the Russian capital: Palestinian representative Abu Mazen on Monday [1 March], Egyptian President Husni Mubarak "in the near future," and, a bit later on, possibly Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Commentary Views Upcoming Russian-U.S. Summit

LD2602234193 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Vladislav Kozyakov commentary—read by announcer]

[Text] The forthcoming meeting on 4th April between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and U.S. President Bill Clinton is regarded far and wide as an event of world importance, promising to boost cooperation between Russia and the United States. Vladislav Kozyakov has this comment and this is what he writes.

The agenda of the Yeltsin-Clinton summit has not yet been defined. It's up to their foreign ministers to do. Yet already now it is clear that at the center of the one-day meeting between the two presidents will be the problem of support to Russia's reforms. It has overstepped the framework of only one nation, affecting the Americans and the entire world community as much as the Russians. According to the UN Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, [as heard] the whole world depends on the success of the Russian reforms. Speaking in Geneva, he said a top priority task of the Clinton Administration was to establish close partnership with Russia. Upon the end of his meeting with the British prime minister, John Major, Mr. Clinton announced the United States was putting a lot of effort into trying to support democracy and economic recovery in Russia.

The question is, what concrete measures along this line will be taken in the near future? What will the forthcoming Moscow- Washington summit improve in this domain? First, a moral factor is of great importance. The fact that the United States has solemnly declared its support of the policy of reforms pursued by the Russian president means much to Russia. Another step is a 417 million dollar aid credit already approved by the U.S. Congress. But what else can the White House and the American Congress do to give practical and effective assistance to the economic changes in Russia? For if the presidential talks on 4th April fail to produce tangible results regarding large-scale support to the Russian reforms, it may lead to disappointment.

As to other spheres of Russian-American partnership, hope is being put on a constructive exchange of opinions during the summit. The experience of the past few years laid solid foundations for good-neighbor relations between Moscow and Washington.

Commentary on Summit's Significance

LD2602175893 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Yuriy Solton commentary]

[Excerpts] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his American counterpart Warren Christopher have agreed that a Russian-American summit will be held on 4th April. Comment is by Yuriy Solton, and this is what he writes:

Upon his arrival in Geneva on Thursday, Mr. Kozyrev was asked what he expected from his meeting with the U.S. Secretary of State, Warren Christopher. The Russian foreign minister said that the day was clear and sunny and this forbode success. [passage omitted]

Observers are proved to be wrong who thought that Mr. Bill Clinton, who has his hands full with domestic affairs and who allegedly has lost interest in Russia, does not see his meeting with President Yeltsin as a matter of urgency. [passage omitted]

According to Mr. Kozyrev the Russian-American summit will become a major event in international affairs, will promote stability and help remove artificial barriers on the way to developing Russian- American cooperation.

The rivalry of Moscow and Washington that held the entire world tense for years has been replaced with normal relations but that doesn't mean at all that the Russian-American ties have lost their significance. The two countries are yet to do a great deal in the area of nuclear disarmament—first of all to carry out the START II Treaty to reduce strategic nuclear forces by two thirds within ten years.

The role of the two countries is also growing in joint action to resolve regional conflicts. Their approach to a Middle East settlement is notable. [passage omitted]

Of course, there are also rather big divergences and differences in the approaches of Russia and the United States to solving international problems, but in principle their positions largely coincide, which makes our world a safer place to live in.

Kozyrev-Christopher Talks Reviewed

PM2602171793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Feb 93 pp 1, 3

[Maxim Yusin report: "Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton Will Meet One Week Before the Russian Referendum"]

[Text] Geneva-Copenhagen—The most important result, and a somewhat unexpected one, of the talks held 25 February in Geneva between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and the new U.S. secretary of state, Warren Christopher, was the announcement of the precise date of the Russian-U.S. summit: 4 April, in other words, a week before the Russian referendum.

Only the day before informed sources in the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs were assessing the likelihood of the date of the summit being agreed in Geneva as "50-50." The press was even more skeptical, predicting that Clinton would be in no hurry to meet with Yeltsin, at least until the confused internal political situation in Russia clears up.

The Geneva talks refuted these forecasts. In Kozyrev's words, the Americans initially proposed an even earlier date for the summit, but the Russians preferred 4 April, so as to have time to prepare for the first meeting of the two presidents properly.

The venue of the meeting has not yet been determined. Diplomats from Kozyrev's entourage have intimated that, in all likelihood, the choice will fall on a third country—what country precisely, Yeltsin and Clinton are due to determine in the near future. According to certain information, the Russians prefer Europe, but the Americans do not agree, proposing Canada or an Asian state.

The central topic of the talks was the situation in the Balkans. At the final press conference Kozyrev stated that Russia on the whole supports the U.S. plan envisaging airdropping humanitarian aid to the inhabitants of Bosnia. At the same time he added that it is not only the Muslims who are in need of assistance, but also representatives of other communities, that is to say, the Serbs and Croats.

One member of the Russian delegation explained that Moscow had demanded from the very beginning, as soon as it learned of the U.S. initiative, that humanitarian aid be extended to the Serbs. The Americans agreed with this, supposing that the lion's share of the freight would still go to the Muslims, who need significantly more.

As for Russia, one can gather from conversations with diplomats from Kozyrev's entourage that it remains somewhat skeptical with regard to the U.S. plan, fearing provocations against the planes carrying humanitarian aid and the unpredictable consequences which this could have. Nevertheless, Moscow did not publicly object, giving the Americans the opportunity to make their initiative on Bosnia, which was promised from the moment Clinton took up his post, without any obstruction. "On the whole, our positions on Yugoslavia are now far closer than before. The question of military intervention in the conflict has been virtually removed from the agenda," Kozyrev summed up the results of the Geneva talks.

Another important question on the agenda was the Near East. Christopher shared with Kozyrev the results of his eight-day tour of seven countries of the region. The upshot of the conversation was a Russian-U.S. statement in which the minister and secretary of state expressed support for "a just and firm Arab-Israeli peace settlement on the basis of UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338" (which, as is well known, require the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied territories).

In Kozyrev's words, Russia intends to step up its efforts in its capacity as cochairman of the Near East peace conference. Already on Monday a Palestinian Liberation Organization delegation will arrive in Moscow for talks. Then a visit is expected from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, which will be immediately followed by a visit from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Kozyrev and Christopher are convinced that the Arab-Israeli talks could resume in April.

Another joint statement was made on Nagorno-Karabakh. Russia and the United States called on the Armenians and Azerbaijanis "to refrain from offensive operations... and also not to employ aviation or artillery whose use leads to casualties among the civilian population." Kozyrev explained to the journalists accompanying him that the statement had appeared "in connection with the need to prove that the change of administration in the United States has not affected our assessment of the Karabakh conflict, which remains one of the most important foreign policy questions for both Moscow and Washington."

A new factor for Russian-U.S. relations was the question of arms exports, raised by Kozyrev. In the minister's words, his aim was to convince the new administration that for Russia, the sale of arms is one means of solving its economic problems, and the United States should not see Moscow's efforts in this direction as encroaching on its interests in one region or another. The Americans, in Kozyrev's opinion, should not bar Russia's entry to the conventional weapons or space technologies market, provided that all international norms are observed in the process. "Christopher listened to my words very seriously and with great interest. This gives grounds to hope for a fruitful dialogue in the future," the Russian minister believes.

Kozyrev and Christopher also touched on the thorny question of Ukraine's position regarding nuclear disarmament. In conversation with journalists on the plane from Geneva, the Russian minister noted that the positions of Moscow and Washington almost coincided: Both sides believe that Kiev should fulfill the international obligations it has assumed, ratify the START-1 Treaty, and confirm its nuclear-free status.

Christopher's attitude to the problem of the Russian-speaking population in the former USSR republics was "a pleasant surprise" for Kozyrev. This topic, which was of little concern to the previous administration, provoked great interest from the new secretary of state. Christopher promised to touch on the question of the position of Russians abroad as early as in his meeting in Brussels with West European allies on Friday.

The minister and secretary of state flew from Geneva almost simultaneously. Kozyrev headed for Copenhagen. His visit to Denmark will end late on the evening of 26 February.

Kozyrev Request for Arms Trade Concessions 'Naive'

PM0103141393 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Feb 93 p 3

[Sergey Svistunov report: "The Naive Get 'Left Behind.' The Latest 'Demarche' by Russian Diplomacy Is Prompting a Condescending Smile From the Americans"]

[Text] As the popular saying goes: "A little naivety is worse than robbery." It seems that the latest demarche by current Russian diplomacy, which, alas, is not overblessed with professionalism, displays precisely this sort of naivety. The British newspaper FINANCIAL TIMES (one of the "fine traditions" of the institution on Smolenskaya-Sennaya Square was first and foremost to brief foreign correspondents) reports that on going to meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Geneva, Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev took with him in his attache case, in addition to other documents, a plan for "trading weapons for the sake of conversion" which has been formulated deep within the innermost recesses of the Foreign Ministry and a number of other Russian ministries.

Under this plan, the West should give Russia the chance to sell weapons not only in third world countries, but also in their own markets. This, it is said, will enable Moscow "to earn an honest crust" and at the same time it will enable the West to support Russian economic reforms. Kozyrev is promising to give Christopher "firm guarantees" that the income received from selling weapons and military hardware will not be spent on further developing the military-industrial complex, but on converting military enterprises to civilian needs.

In my opinion, naivety is pardonable in 17-year-old girls, but not in foreign ministers, let alone the foreign ministers of nuclear powers. I am convinced that even if Christopher, as befits a diplomat, were to put on an inscrutable face in Geneva, this would at best conceal a condescending smile.

"If the Russian foreign minister is seriously suggesting that the United States and other Western countries should buy weapons from Russia," the BBC comments on Kozyrev's plan, "he could be disappointed. Although U.S. President Bill Clinton likes to inject an element of idealism into his politics, his idealism hardly extends to such an important sector of U.S. industry as military production."

What other reaction can we expect when the fierce skirmishing for sales markets has already reached the critical limit, whipped up as it is by the economic slump in all the industrially developed countries at a time when Western Europe, North America, and Japan are protecting their internal markets from imported steel, wine, bananas, and textiles using the barriers of high customs tariffs, tough quotas, and other protectionist measures? And now we start talking about arms sales—a business worth billions and one of the pillars of these very states' foreign economic expansion. Can we really imagine that Lockheed and McDonnell Douglas will consent to be crowded out, not somewhere or other in the deserts of Arabia, but on their home patch in Oklahoma and Washington? Can we really imagine that they will "donate" a couple of billion dollars to the Russian military-industrial complex, which they are dying to dismantle down to the last nut? Incidentally, agreeing to this would mean closing down whole plants and shedding workers and employees.

The reality is such that Western arms manufacturers, who are engaged in desperate competition with each other, are taking the first opportunity they can to lay their hands on sales markets which Russia is leaving for "ideological reasons" equivalent to muddleheadedness at state level. These include African countries, the Near East, and India. However, at the same time we cannot count on mutual concessions and compensation in other regions.

No sooner had Russia attempted to beat a "caravan trail" to the UAE [United Arab Emirates], for example, than Western military-industrial corporations, which are always supported at government level, made a friendly rush to rebuff "Russian arms expansionism." Even the flying visit to this region by Russian Federation Defense Minister Grachev, which had to be cut short, alarmed them to an excessive degree. Precisely as a result of Russian participation in the "Idex 93" defense weapons exhibition, which opened 14 February in Abu Dhabi, the interest in this event shown by Western "dealers of death," according to General M. Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, chief of the UAE Armed Forces General Staff, "exceeded all expectations." A total of 350 major arms corporations from 34 countries rushed to crowd the Russians out of the "Arabian pie." And all the indications are that they have succeeded. The UAE has already signed major deals with the Americans and the French. The Russian military-industrial complex, which really does have something to offer, is getting "left behind" at the moment.

Uranium Sales Agreement Signed With U.S.

PM2602130993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Feb 93 p 3

[Aleksey Portanskiy report: "Weapons-Grade Uranium From Russia Will Go To Fuel U.S. Nuclear Electric Power Stations"]

[Text] The United States will buy from Russia 500 tonnes of highly enriched uranium being extracted from the Russian nuclear munitions which are subject to reduction in accordance with treaty obligations relating to disarmament and arms control. After processing, this uranium will be used in U.S. nuclear power reactors.

V. Mikhaylov, Russian Federation minister of atomic energy, and General (Retired) U. Berns [name as transliterated], leader of the U.S. delegation on the Russian-U.S. Joint Commission for Dismantling Nuclear Arms, signed an intergovernmental agreement on the utilization of highly enriched uranium extracted from nuclear weapons in Washington 18 February.

Russia and the United States declared their intention to cooperate in this sphere as long ago as the end of last August. All this time painstaking work had been done on a text to suit both sides.

In accordance with the signed agreement, the Americans will buy from us on a contract basis the low-grade [nizkoobogashchennyy] uranium obtained from highly enriched uranium in Russian plants. The initial delivery of the product is planned, as far as possible, no later than 1 October 1993.

During the first five years 10 tonnes of highly enriched uranium will be processed each year, and then this figure is to increase to 30 tonnes. According to preliminary estimates, the proceeds from uranium sales will amount initially to approximately $200 million a year and then, correspondingly, to three times as much.

According to authoritative assessments, the agreement takes each side's interest strictly into account and is mutually advantageous. It is known that, given our huge natural stocks of uranium, the Russian quota on the world market remains insignificant. The signed agreement enables Russia to sell uranium to the U.S. market outside the existing quota and does not affect our relations with other partners on the world market. In addition, the agreement opens up the possibility of loading our uranium-processing enterprises, which are significantly more advanced than the U.S. ones in terms of their capacity and technical level.

By helping Russia to get rid of weapons-grade uranium and at the same time to turn a profit, the Americans themselves will be none the worse off either. Their long-standing position on the world uranium market as a monopolist cannot fail to give the United States a definite advantage—the possibility of discussing [obgovorit] a purchase price for our uranium that is advantageous to them. In the opinion of our specialists, the future profits will enable the Americans to modernize their obsolete uranium-processing plants and will also cover the $400 million allocated by the U.S. Congress last year for conducting operations to transport and dismantle our nuclear missiles.

The agreement strictly limits the framework for the use of uranium acquired from us: It can be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. Another important circumstance is that the agreement will contribute to the nuclear weapons nonproliferation regime, the physical protection and stockkeeping of nuclear materials, and environmental conservation.

The funds obtained by Russia will be used for purposes of converting defense enterprises, for improving the safety of nuclear electric power stations, for ecological programs, and to support science.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Holds 26 Feb Briefing

OW2602150493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1428 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dimitry Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, director of the press and information department of Russia's foreign ministry, has announced at a briefing on Friday that Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy is going abroad, the itinerary of his foreign travels including a visit to Malaysia on March 1-3, New Zealand on March 4-7, and Singapore on March 7-8. Aleksandr Rutskoy will meet with the government leaders of these countries and hold talks with them. Meantime, RF [Russian Federation] Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze, who is also included in the delegation, will conduct political consultations with his counterparts in Kuala Lumpur, Wellington and Singapore.

The Russian foreign ministry spokesman also revealed that Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin is arriving in Moscow on a working visit on March 1. Apart from the issues of the two countries' bilateral cooperation, Hikmet Cetin and Andrey Kozyrev are expected to discuss prospects for peace settlement in the former Yugoslavia and Nagorno Karabakh.

Sergey Yastrzhembskiy characterized as a "fib" the allegations contained in the February 23 note of the Azerbaijani MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] that Russian soldiers are taking part in the offensive operations conducted by the Armenian armed formations in Mardakert District of Nagorno Karabakh. In his words, Russian military personnel are not taking part in any combat operations there. "I am under the impression," he said, "that it is becoming a tradition for the side which has suffered a defeat in a military operation against the other side to pin the blame for its failure on the alleged participation of the Russian troops." "We cannot fully exclude a possibility that some of the former Soviet Army soldiers, as well as other nationals, could be taking part in combat operations on either Azerbaijani or Armenian side," Sergey Yastrzhembskiy said. Russia, however, insists that both sides should not "allow any mercenaries in their ranks nor encourage their involvement," he said. "Russia's attitude toward mercenaries remains negative," the Russian diplomat emphasized.

Russian military vessels in the Persian Gulf are under the administration of the Chief Command of the Russian Navy. Their commanders have orders not to enter into fighting operations. Sergey Yastrzhembskiy stated this in response to a a question from INTERFAX. He pointed out that the Arab nations "have directly asked for Russian vessels to be permanently located in the waters of the Persian Gulf." "Our policy is based on that," he said.

The official representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry said that Russia's naval presence in the Persian Gulf strictly correlates to Moscow's stance on erasing the aftermath "of the Kuwait crisis" and bolstering security in the region.

The diplomat explained that the assignments of the large anti- submarine warfare craft Admiral Tributs and the tanker accompanying it include demonstrating Russia's support for UN sanctions against Iraq and making friendly visits to the ports of coastal Arab states.

Denies Russians Fighting in Karabakh

LD2602180293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1756 GMT 26 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow February 26 TASS—The Russian Foreign Ministry has expressed puzzlement over a note by the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry of February 23 accusing the Russian military of fighting on the Azerbaijani side in the Nagorno-Karabakh disputed enclave.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy said the note repeats charges which Russia denied on February 20.

Speaking at a news briefing in Moscow on Friday [26 February], Yastrzhembskiy said Russian troops are not fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh, adding that Azerbaijan and Armenia often resort to the tactics of blaming their military failures on the Russian military.

At the same time, the spokesman did not rule out the possibility that former Soviet Army servicemen are participating in the war on both sides. The Russian side has long been calling for a ban on mercinarism, but to no avail, the spokesman said.

Speaking about mercinarism in general, Yastrzhembskiy said that the Russian legislation needs to be supplemented with new laws banning mercinarism. He said this problem should become a concern of the whole world community, adding that Russia is ready to discuss it.

Kozyrev Warns of 'Serious Damage' to Estonia Ties

LD2702181793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1809 GMT 27 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow February 27 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev made a statement here today to warn the Estonian authorities their actual connivance to nationalists may inflict serious damage on the Russian-Estonian relations.

The statement calls attention to the aggressively nationalistic Estonian de-colonization front. Analyzing front program documents, one can see their "intention to force out from Estonia hundreds of thousands of people, who lived there for decades and some even were born on Estonian territory," says the official.

"I must categorically state such actions of Estonian nationalists with the actual connivance of the authorities are inadmissible and may inflict serious damage on the Russian-Estonian relations," stressed the document.

Latvia, Estonia Accused of Human Rights Violations

OW2502184193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1630 GMT 25 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian parliament's Committee on Human Rights has accused Latvia and Estonia of violating the human rights of national minorities and called upon the countries' parliaments to make "changes in their national legislation."

Baltfax was informed by committee member Sergey Sirotkin that the committee's conclusions on the hearings "On the Observance of Human Rights in the Latvian Republic and the Estonian Republic" included complaints regarding the two countries' legislation on citizenship and the official state language, as well as with their practical application. In the opinion of the committee, the countries had established "a regime unfavorable even for those members of the Russian-speaking population who intended to assimilate into the new state's legal environment."

The committee called attention to the possible negative consequences which could result from the undefined status of, and discrimination against, the Russian-speaking populations of Latvia and Estonia. The fact that non-citizens had been denied political rights and, therefore, socially-acceptable ways of expressing their interests, the conclusion stated, "could lead to the growth of instability and the intensification of chauvinistic and nationalistic forces in Russia as well as in Latvia and Estonia, which could pose a threat to security throughout the Baltic region."

The committee appealed to Baltic state legislators to include provisions into the legislation of Latvia and Estonia which stipulate: abolition of state language examinations for those over 50 years old; specific explanations of the requirements for command of the state language and practical measures to assure that they are observed; the reduction of the settlement requirements in Latvia to five years and changes in the way permanent residency in Latvia is defined; a reconsideration and reduction, especially in Latvia, of the group of people upon whom citizenship cannot be conferred; and the conferring of citizenship upon children born to people without citizenship.

Grachev: Troops in Abkhazia To Return Fire if Attacked

OW2602201393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1927 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian army units that are temporarily stationed in Abkhazia are neutral and not involved in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. When attacked, however, they will return fire, said Pavel Grachev, Russian Defense Minister in Gudauta on Friday [26 February].

He told journalists that he had arrived in Gudauta to meet with the command of the 345th airborne regiment, stationed there, "to see the situation first hand and determine and remedy shortcomings in supplies to Russian servicemen."

Withdrawal of Russian troops from Abkhazia, he emphasized, is a matter to be resolved between the governments. This is the reason why he rejected offer of a meeting made by Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, in his speech to the country's parliament.

On Saturday, February 27, the minister intends to meet the command and personnel of the 145th Russian mechanized infantry division stationed in Adzharia.

Decision on Ukraine Gas Supplies To Come After Talks

LD0103095693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0859 GMT 1 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Gordeyev]

[Text] Moscow March 1 TASS—Russia will adopt the final decision on whether to cut off gas supplies to Ukraine after talks on the problem are held with Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma in Surgut, Tuymen region of Siberia, during a conference on oil and gas cooperation between former Soviet republics which opened on Monday, Vyacheslav Sherenets, deputy head of the Russian "Gasprom" concern told TASS.

Russia has first decided to cut off supplies as from February 25 in order to make Ukrainian customers pay their debt for the gas shipped this year which amounts to 165 billion roubles.

The deadline was later moved up to February 28 to allow the Ukrainian prime minister meet his Russian counterpart.

Viktor Chernomyrdin is now badly ill with influenza and Kuchma will negotiate the problem with Deputy Prime Minister Georgiy Khizha.

Kazakhstan's Nazarbayev Continues Meetings

Views Unified Banking System

OW2602170493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In commenting of the results of his talks with the Kazakh president, Viktor Chernomyrdin told Interfax that President Nazarbayev and Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko visited Moscow on Boris Yeltsin's invitation to affirm their willingness "to further strengthen the Commonwealth in spite of the present-day difficulties." In the words of Viktor Chernomyrdin, the governments of Russia and Kazakhstan are still aspiring to "improve their relations in the framework of the CIS and strengthen the Commonwealth foundation."

The Kazakh president was addressing the options for establishing a unified banking system among the ruble-zone states. He insisted that the ruble-zone countries should proceed from coordinating and adjusting their cash issue and taxation policy. "For the sake strengthening the ruble and improving the living standards of our people, we will have to make certain concessions concerning our sovereignty, which is normal practice when any international agreements are concluded," he said.

The Kazakh president believes that at least four of the CIS countries - Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Belarus - are prepared to join in a collective currency zone.

In the meantime, President Nazarbayev observed that if Russia, in printing and issuing its rubles, will still remain "negligent and unwatchful in providing money to the other CIS republics, the ruble will never stand steady on its own feet."

Apart from that, President Nazarbayev is going to discuss the issues of military cooperation between Russia and Kazakhstan. "Since our countries have concluded a collective security agreement, we are regarding the territory of our two countries as our joint defense zone," he said, adding that both countries ought to effect closer cooperation of their armed forces, including formation of mixed units. Nursultan Nazarbayev also said that he has brought concrete proposals to President Yeltsin in that regard.

According to our information, the Kazakh and Russian presidents had planned to meet during the second half of the day at Yeltsin's vacation home outside Moscow. Due to a severe snowstorm, however, all traffic in the city and the suburbs has been paralyzed. At the moment the Presidential Bulletin was released, it was even unlikely that Nazarbayev's plane would be able to take off for Alma-Ata.

Outcome of Meeting With Yeltsin

LD2702131893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1216 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow, 27 Feb—Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary to the president of the Russian Federation, distributed the following announcement today:

"Negotiations between Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev have ended. A joint communique has been signed on the outcome of the negotiations and the meeting between the presidents. The communique emphasizes the necessity of swifter progress in the direction of close cooperation between the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan within the framework of the CIS, encompassing the political, economic, and military fields.

"On the basis of the collective security treaty, Russia and Kazakhstan have decided to sign a treaty on military cooperation to set up a united defense space and make joint use of military capabilities. The defense ministers of both republics have been charged with preparing a draft treaty within one month. They agreed to try harder to set up a common ruble zone and coordinate the credit and money issue, and decided to coordinate customs policy. They also agreed on how to use and convert the military-industrial complex, including the use of the 'Baykonur' cosmodrome and other testing grounds for economic purposes.

"The foreign ministers of Russia and Kazakhstan are charged with broadening the powers and functions of the representations open in Moscow and Alma-Ata."

Communique Issued

OW2702153493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1517 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to a communique issued in the wake of Saturday's [27 February] meeting between a Russian and Kazakh government delegations, Presidents Yeltsin of Russia and Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan would favor an earlier ratification of the Commonwealth's Charter, decisions on the creation of an inter-Commonwealth bank and coordination and consultative committee and a few other key documents. The Russian-Kazakh summit closed around midday near Moscow.

The communique, spread by the press service under President Yeltsin, says that within a month from now the Russian and Kazakh Defense Ministers will be expected to draft a bilateral military cooperation agreement.

According to the communique, Russia and Kazakhstan are aiming to promote economic relation in the context of internationally-accepted norms. The two Presidents have advised their Foreign Ministers to grant additional authority to the national representations in Alma-Ata and Moscow.

Presidents Yeltsin and Nazarbayev have reaffirmed their intention to use, as best as they can, the potential of the Rouble zone and have agreed to take additional joint action in the fields of monetary emmission, budget policy and taxation.

In their view, the agreement on the principles for economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation between their republics' neighboring regions may give a new impetus to expanded and equitable economic and humanitartian relations between the neighboring regions. The two Presidents have suggested that a joint intergovernmental commission map out a plan for action whose implementation would create favorable conditions for further cooperation between Russia and Kazakhstan.

A final protocol of the intergovernmental meeting was initialled Saturday in Moscow.

Russian Vice Premier Georgiy Khizha says the protocol will, for the time being, define the character of bilateral economic relations and suggest ways to resolve the numerous outstanding problems. The Vice Premier feels the mutual willingness to use one currency unit will help Russia and Kazakhstan to settle the problem of reciprocal payments. According to Khizha, the Russian and Kazakh delegations have agreed to bring the national customs policies to a common denominator and list commodities whose export requires licensing and which cannot be imported duty-free.

Kazakhstan's First Deputy Prime Minister Daulet Sembayev has, in turn, pointed out that customs dues will be introduced for the first time ever in bilateral trade, which is why Russian and Kazakh businesses must update their performance and the Russian and Kazakh governments - act to avert possible misunderstandings. Sembayev cited the experience of last year when Russian and Kazakh industrial facilities had failed to square reciprocal payments.

Responding to a question from Interfax, Georgiy Khizha laid special emphasis on bilateral military cooperation and the Russian use of testing grounds, including Baykonur, on Kazakh territory.

He said Russia had achieved the farthest-reaching results in cooperation with Belarus and Kazakhstan of the former Soviet republics.

Economic Committee Chairman on Ties With CIS States

OW2602183693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1649 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia will no longer sign non-beneficial agreements for political motives, nor will it conclude major agreements between states in order to create the conditions for liaisons between entrepreneurial structures throughout the CIS (freedom to transfer capital, goods etc.). The above announcement was made at a meeting of business circles in Moscow on Friday under the title "Russian Entrepreneurship—The Problems and the Prospects" by Deputy Chairman of the Russian State Committee for the Economy and Cooperation with the CIS States Vladimir Pokrovskiy.

Pokrovskiy announced that a program of measures to halt illegal re-exporting from Russia was being drafted by the State Committee. In particular, special permission must be received for the re-exporting Russian goods from Commonwealth states. Failure to comply with this condition would incur recompense for any loss in freely convertible hard currency.

Regarding the debts owed by CIS states to Russia, Pokrovskiy pointed out that Moscow said that these could be repaid in the form of property on the territories of the states concerned to be transferred to Russian ownership. This proposal, however, had not yet received the backing of one such state.

Report on Arms for Serbia 'Absolutely Scandalous'

LD2802175993 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 28 Feb 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Foreign agencies have reported absolutely scandalous information today. Hopefully, by the time we are next on the air, we will know the opinion of our own Foreign Ministry about all this.

The London OBSERVER alleges today that at the end of January Russia and Serbia signed a secret agreement on deliveries of Russian weapons to Serbia, including tanks and surface-to-air missiles, worth $360 million. The British newspaper reports that, accompanied by advisers, some of these weapons are already on the way to Serbia and Serb-controlled areas of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Kozyrev Visits Denmark, Meets Prime Minister

LD2602115393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0939 GMT 26 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Copenhagen, 26 Feb—Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen today received at his residence Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who arrived in Denmark yesterday evening on a two-day official visit. During the conversation, there was a detailed discussion on questions regarding the development of bilateral ties and cooperation between Denmark and Russia. The history of Russian- Danish cooperation goes back 500 years. This anniversary will be marked by the states this coming November.

The prime minister expressed interest in the present state of the reform process in Russia. He expressed understanding and support for the course of radical transformation of society being pursued by the Russian leadership. The sides exchanged opinions on questions of the present state of the processes of European integration and the development of links between Russia and the EC. Helle Degn, minister for cooperation with developing and East European Countries, participated in the conversation.

Raises Plight of Baltic Russians

LD2602170793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1450 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] As we have already reported today, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is visiting Denmark. He held talks with Prime Minister Rasmussen and was received by Danish Queen Margrethe II. We will hear details of the visit from our correspondent in Copenhagen, Viktor Levin, who is on the line to the studio. Our correspondent is accompanying the Russian minister on this trip. Over to you, Viktor Nikolayevich:

[Levin] Addressing a press conference, Andrey Kozyrev said with a smile that the love affair between Russia and Denmark has lasted 500 years. This was a reference to the 500th anniversary of the signing of a treaty between our countries, which was officially entitled "The Treaty on Love and Brotherhood." That anniversary will be celebrated in November. The minister expressed confidence that the partnership that has developed between Russia and Denmark has a reliable future.

A visit to Denmark by Russian President Boris Yeltsin is on the agenda. When I asked when this visit might take place, Andrey Vladimirovich said that during his audience with Queen Margrethe II today, he also passed on a message from the Russian president, in which the friendship between the two countries was reiterated. The queen confirmed her invitation to Yeltsin. The Russian president's visit is being planned for the end of the year. I have a feeling that the visit could be timed to coincide with the date that I have already mentioned, the 500th anniversary of the signing of the treaty. This date is 8 November.

Kozyrev expressed satisfaction with his talks in Copenhagen. As the announcer has also mentioned, he had talks with Prime Minister Rasmussen. He also had talks with Foreign Minister Petersen yesterday. Today Andrey Vladimirovich had thorough talks with Mrs. Degn, the minister responsible for assistance to developing countries and East European states.

Human rights were also discussed, in addition to the development of economic and political relations—including relations with the EC, of which Denmark is currently chairman. The logic of our position on this subject, as set out by Andrey Vladimirovich, is dictated, first, by legitimate concern for the fate of hundreds of thousands of fellow countrymen, especially in the Baltic countries. We cannot reconcile ourselves to the practice of discrimination against entire Russian-speaking communities and to their displacement, even if this is being done—as our minister put it—in a civilized way, with kid gloves. Second, we do not want fits of Russophobia in the Baltic countries and retaliation in Russia to fuel each other and to lead to an escalation of interethnic conflicts. The Russian minister expressed hope that our European partners—above all our partners in the CSCE and its high commissioner on national minorities, the Council of Europe, and the Baltic Council—would continue to monitor the position of the Russian-speaking population.

This subject—the rights of the Russian-speaking population and the rights of national minorities—occupied a very substantial place both in today's and yesterday's talks in Denmark and during the talks that the Russian minister had in Geneva yesterday with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. I regard this as a very important question. The fact that it is the constant focus of attention for the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is in our national interests.

Holds News Conference

LD2602230293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2121 GMT 26 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Copenhagen February 26 TASS—"We have discussed with the Danish leadership a wide range of issues concerning Russian-Danish relations, the 500th anniversary of which will be marked this year," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told a news conference in Copenhagen on Friday.

Century-long relations between the two countries reflect a closeness of the historic destinies of Russia and Western Europe. He stressed that the indivisibility of their destinies is especially vivid now when a new Europe is being born, free from ideological confrontation.

Speaking about the concrete results of his visit to Denmark, Kozyrev said he had presented Danish Queen Margrethe II with a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin and discussed prospects for Yeltsin's visit to Denmark. Queen Margrethe II confirmed her invitation to Yeltsin to visit Denmark. The date of the visit will be set later.

The Russian foreign minister praised Denmark's position on economic reforms in Russia and welcomed Danish businesses' positive role on the Russian market, primarily in St. Petersburg and the Kaliningrad region.

Kozyrev informed Danish leaders about Russia's policy in Europe. Russia believes its role in Europe is to be a "factor of stability on Europe's eastern frontiers." He said Russia will fulfil this task first of all through strengthening the Commonwealth of Independent States. The CIS has passed only the first stage, the main goal of which was to "prevent a chaotic disintegration of the nuclear super power," Kozyrev said.

He said Russia is seeking to mobilise the peace-keeping potential of the CIS and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). A matter of special concern for Russia is the Yugoslav crisis which is a lesson to all multinational states in Europe, Kozyrev said.

He also stressed the need to pool efforts in solving the problem of ethnic minorities in Europe, including the former Soviet Union where 28 million Russians live outside Russia. "We hope that the position of Russian ethnic minorities will always be in the focus of attention of our European partners, primarily the CSCE and its High Commissioners for Ethnic Minorities, the Council of Europe and the Council of the Baltic States," Kozyrev said.

The minister said NATO could also contribute to the strengthening of security in Europe, adding that Russia has no "allergy" to NATO and is seeking to boost its relations with it.

He said the foreign ministers of Britain, Denmark and Belgium—the former, present and future chairmen of the EC ruling bodies—are expected to arrive in Moscow on February 27 to continue talks on cooperation between the EC and Russia.

Kozyrev ended his visit to Denmark on Friday and left for home.

Views Russia's Role in Europe

LD2702112493 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stressed that Russia sees its responsibility as being primarily to ensure the success and irreversibility of its internal reforms. The president and the government are firmly dedicated to that policy, although every step literally requires a battle. Andrey Kozyrev was speaking on Friday [26 February] to Denmark's foreign policy society during his visit, which has now ended. As for European policy, he noted that Russia sees its role as to act as a factor of stability on Europe's eastern borders. Local conflicts throughout the former USSR are intruding more and more into the circle of pan-European problems. For that reason, Russia sees its task as being to mobilize both the CIS's peacekeeping potential and the possibilities of the CSCE, Andrey Kozyrev said.

Returns to Moscow

LD2602223293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2120 GMT 26 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelyov]

[Text] Moscow February 26 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev returned to Moscow today upon the completion of his two-day Danish visit.

When in Denmark he was received by Queen Margrethe II and met the Danish prime minister and foreign minister to discuss a broad range of issues of bilateral relations and European integration.

Kozyrev came to Copenhagen from Geneva after his first working meeting with U.S. State Secretary Warren Christopher.

Chernomyrdin Meets Bulgarian Parliament Delegation

AU2602215193 Sofia BTA in English 1957 GMT 25 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow, February 26 (BTA)—Bulgaria attaches great importance to the pursuit of trade and economic contacts with Russia, Bulgarian National Assembly Chairman Aleksandur Yordanov, who arrived on an official visit to Moscow yesterday, told a news conference at the Russian Parliament today. He observed that he viewed his Russian colleagues' invitation to visit Moscow as an expression of Russia's willingness to promote friendly relations between the two peoples on a new, equal-terms basis. The Bulgarian head of parliament singled out the lack of reliable transport links between the two countries as the most serious problem. The signed agreements on the avoidance of double taxation and on cultural and scientific exchanges and of experts are priorities in bilateral relations, Mr. Yordanov emphasized. Discussing foreign policy matters, he dwelt on the Balkan crisis, observing that the conflict in the region threatens Bulgaria's national security. In his view, Macedonia's independence guarantees the localization of the armed conflict.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin today received the Bulgarian parliamentary delegation. They considered the open trade and economic problems between the two countries, the Russian debt to Bulgaria and bilateral settlements.

More on Chernomyrdin Meeting

OW2602225993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1929 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and speaker of the Bulgarian parliament Aleksandr Yordanov discussed bilateral trade and economic relations on Friday [25 February]. The speaker of the Bulgarian parliament was in Moscow on an official visit at the invitation of the Russian parliament.

Yordanov told Interfax that the sides had agreed to conclude an agreement in the near future to avoid double taxation and the protection of investment. The speaker of the Bulgarian parliament said the Russian Prime Minister welcomed the idea of a Russian-Bulgarian bank, called to establish guarantees for barter trade between the enterprises and commercial structures of the two countries. Proposals were approved for using national monetary units in bilateral trade on a wider scale. However, in this world prices would be used as a peg.

Yordanov said he had brought up the question of putting in order the trips of citizens by the two countries in order to prevent the penetration of criminal groups into Russia and Bulgaria.

More on Kozyrev Meeting

AU2702171193 Sofia BTA in English 1643 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow, February 27 (BTA)—On the third day of its official visit to Moscow the Bulgarian parliamentary delegation led by National Assembly Chairman Aleksandur Yordanov had a meeting with Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrey Kozyrev. The two sides discussed the Yugoslav crisis and the situation in the Balkans. They supported the Vance-Owen plan, stressing it should be proceeded with its implementation the soonest possible. Appreciation was expressed of Bulgaria's position of restraint and non-interference in the conflict. The Russian side underlined that thanks to its realistic policy, Bulgaria could successfully contribute to easing tension in the Balkans.

The two sides considered some aspects of Black Sea economic cooperation (BSEC) paying special attention to the idea of establishing a BSEC parliamentary assembly. Mr. Yordanov set out Bulgaria's motives for prioritizing the development of bilateral and multilateral trade and economic relations without politically institutionalizing the process. Both sides declared themselves to be for closer contacts at government level, for coordinating their activity in the international organizations and for holding consultations on key international problems.

The Bulgarian delegation is coming back from Moscow tomorrow.

Yugoslav Situation Discussed

OW2702174793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1717 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Saturday's [27 February] negotiations between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and the chairman of the Bulgarian parliament, Andrey Yordanov, made it clear that that both countries actively support the Vance-Owen plan aimded at the political settlement of the Yugoslavian crisis.

Yordanov told reporters that the Balkan countries, considering past experience, are not interfering in any of the armed clashes on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. They regard this as an indispensable condition for reaching a settlement, in particular in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Kozyrev's adviser Galina Sidorova told reporters that, as regards sanctions, Bulgaria takes the same position vis-a-vis all republics of the former Yugoslavia, supporting the steps taken by the U.N. Security Council and playing a positive, stabilizing role in the region.

Yordanov, speaking about multilateral economic cooperation and proposals for setting up a parliamentary assembly of Black Sea countries, said "Bulgaria takes a restrained attitude to the creation of political structures aimed at developing trade."

He said the Bulgarian government had suggested that Russia keep its consulate in Ruse to help maintain trade and industrial contacts between the two countries.

Leader Holds News Conference

MK2702135293 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Feb 93 p 1

[Ivan Rodin report: "Bulgarian Speaker Meets with Journalists"]

[Text] On 27 February, Aleksandr Yordanov, chairman of the Bulgarian People's Assembly, who is on a visit to Russia, gave a news conference after his meeting with Russian Supreme Soviet Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov. Khasbulatov's Bulgarian counterpart briefly described the structure of his country's parliament, his functions, and his relations with the president and deputies. The foreign speaker identified the desired areas of cooperation with the Russian Federation, including economy, culture, science, and transportation development. At present, Bulgaria and Russia do not have direct transportation links, but now there is a plan to set up a Varna-Novorossiysk ferry route.

Bulgaria's foreign policy, particularly in the Balkans, is based on national security requirements, Aleksandr Yordanov stressed. This is why Bulgaria is glad that Russia, "a leading force in solving the Yugoslav crisis," has now stepped up its activity. Bulgaria is also proud of the fact that the ethnic issue—the existence of a Turkish minority—is being solved exclusively by peaceful means.

Rutskoy Departs on Southeast Asian Tour

LD2802070993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0706 GMT 28 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow February 28 TASS—Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy on Sunday sets out on an eight-day tour of a number of South-East Asian countries.

During the tour, Rutskoy is to pay official visits to Malaysia and New Zealand and a working visit to Singapore, according to the vice president's press service.

The vice president is to have meetings with the leadership of the above-mentioned countries and talks with representatives of political circles and business community.

Rutskoy intends to discuss the state of and prospects for the development of Russia's political and trade-and-economic relations with Malaysia, New Zealand, and Singapore, and map out specific ways for cooperation of these countries in various fields.

Besides, there will be an exchange of views on the situation in the Asia-Pacific region and ways to work out collective measures aimed at achieving stability in that part of the world.

Arrives in Kuala Lumpur

LD0103075293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0739 GMT 1 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo March 1 TASS—Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy arrived in the capital of Malaysia Kuala Lumpur on an official visit today. The three day stay in Malaysia is the first step of his tour of a number of Asian-Pacific region countries during which he will also pay official visits to New Zealand and a working visit to Singapore.

Rutskoy's itinerary in Malaysia includes meetings with Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and other leaders of the country.

Issues of bilateral cooperation in the economy and other spheres are expected to be discussed during the visit. They will also exchange views on the situation in the asia-pacific region, ways to work out collective steps aimed at ensuring security and stability in this region.

Turkish Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

LD0103095793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0914 GMT 1 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow March 1 TASS—Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin arrived on a brief working visit in Moscow on Monday [1 March]. The visit is taking place within the framework of a regular exchange of opinions on international problems practiced between the two states.

The programme of the visit envisages talks with the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to discuss issues of Russo-Turkish cooperation in various spheres and problems of the settlement in former Yugoslavia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

It is expected that upon completion of the talks Cetin will hold a news conference for Russian and foreign journalists.

Meets With Kozyrev

LD0103105893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1038 GMT 1 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Ivan Shmelyov]

[Text] Moscow March 1 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev had talks with his Turkish counterpart Hikmet Cetin who arrived in Moscow on Monday on a brief visit in the framework of regular consultations between the Foreign Ministries of both countries. The talks, held in the Russian Foreign Ministry, were focused on bilateral Russo-Turkish relations and important international problems, including finding ways out of the crisis in former Yugoslavia.

Welcoming the Turkish guest, Kozyrev said that bilateral relations and cooperation are "dynamically and successfully developing." He pointed out to the significance and the role played by Turkey and Russia in the solution of such a complex problem as the settlement of the Yugoslav crisis.

Labor Minister Melikyan Ends Visit to PRC

LD2702120393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0622 GMT 27 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Fedoruk]

[Text] Beijing, 27 Feb—China is ready to build relations of friendship and cooperation with the Russian Federation on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence. This was confirmed by Zou Jiahua, PRC State Council vice premier, in a conversation with Russian Labor Minister Gennadiy Melikyan, who today completed a visit to Beijing. The Chinese leader indicated that the PRC and Russia are linked "by knots of traditional friendship."

For his part, G. Melikyan noted the advantages of further broadening Russian-Chinese cooperation. He stressed that this is linked with the fact that there is "much in common" between Russia and China.

During his stay in the PRC, the Russian Federation labor minister studied the progress of economic reforms in China. He visited, among other places, the Beijing metallurgical combine (Shoudu) and the major port city of Tianjin.

Central Asia Islamic Revival Viewed

PM2502143593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Feb 93 p 5

[Article by Vladimir Makartsev: "Afghan Syndrome Is, Alas, Becoming Reality"]

[Text] On Sunday [23 February] Russian troops delivered a strike against two Muslim opposition groupings in Tajikistan. Some sources report that units of the 201st division incurred "insignificant losses" and the group of Muslim gunmen managed to get away to Afghanistan. It looks as though this troop operation could indeed push events in Tajikistan in the direction of the Afghan scenario...

The arrival in December last year of the present leadership in Dushanbe laid the foundation for a new stage in the confrontation between the political forces. What kind of stage? You cannot help finding a parallel with the recent past. In December 1979 a new leadership also arrived in Kabul on the Russian armored vehicles and work began "to render aid in creating a national army." The result is well known. But perhaps making this parallel is risky?

In late January in Peshawar (Pakistan) a conference of representatives of the Muslim countries took place, almost unnoticed by the world community. According to some reports it elaborated measures for rendering assistance to the Tajik brother Muslims in their "holy war." In Afghanistan the training of gunmen is in full swing in special camps not far from areas where there are dense concentrations of refugees from Tajikistan. It is also possible to state their location: the population center of Kowtal 23 km Northeast of Mazar-e Sharif: Kolbat [name as transliterated] 50 km northeast of Kondoz, where depots now contain sufficient weapons to equip two regiments; the population center of Imam Sahib (the birthplace of Golboddin Hekmatyar) 50 km north of Kondoz. At Kondoz airport there are up to 20,000 Tajik refugees, many of whom are undergoing military training there. The situation is the same in the little spot of Khvajeh Ghar, 40 km from Imam Sahib. Many of the camps where Tajik opposition gunmen are being trained were used only recently as a base for training Afghan mujahidin. The same trainers, the same methods.

According to specialists' assessments, over 4,000 gunmen have already been trained. Their main contingent consists of Tajik refugees, whose numbers are approximately 120,000-130,000. There they are, the opposition's reserves.

According to the figures of the Tajikistan national security committee, the opposition's armed formation are preparing "a number of offensive operations" in the spring. It is strange that this information has been made known to the security services only now.

In late 1990 a secret conference of "wahhabites" was held in Namangan—according to the official textbooks they are an extremist religious trend in Islam. It was this congress which decided to begin the struggle to seize power in Central Asia and one speech pointed directly to Russia as the alleged enemy of Islam.

The experience of the development of the "Islamic revolution" shows that it is divided into stages. First preaching activity in the spirit of Islamic fundamentalism, then the organization of paramilitary structures with the broad recruitment of young men and, finally, the transition to active operations to seize power. Specialists believe that events in Central Asia are now entering this third stage. But instead of drawing lessons from history we seem to be borrowing its old mistakes. Did Afghanistan not show that it us hopeless to struggle against the Islamic revolution by military methods alone?

From the military viewpoint it is impossible to cover Gornyy Badakhshan 100 percent with troops. Yet it is across Gornyy Badakhshan that there passes the main flow of weapons and drugs and that the gunmen travel. And that is now being done openly. Back at the end of last year Russia dismantled in the Pamir equipment from four of the five radiotechnical companies which used to control the air space in that region. The air route is free, all that has to be opened is the ground route. And specialists are convinced that that is only a matter of time. Two border detachments—the Khorog and Ishkashimskiy detachments—which used to cover the Afghan border are now in the position of hostages. There are simply not enough peacekeeping forces to halt the "spring flood" of the guerrilla movement in Tajikistan.

It may seem to some people that everything taking place here will have little effect on Russia. But that is not so. The threat of a broad guerrilla war more terrible than the Afghan war, a war for which there are no frontiers and no rules, hangs over Russia. In this war there are no battles by regular armies but powerful equipment becomes a target for saboteurs outwardly no different from peaceful citizens. In asserting this we may recall the materials of the January conference in Peshawar which discussed specific methods of guerrilla warfare: the seizure of population centers, acts of terrorism, the provocation of mass riots. Here the interests of the pan-Islamicists go far beyond the framework of Tajikistan. All Central Asia faces the threat of becoming a theater of war.

The Afghan syndrome is becoming a reality for the states of our commonwealth. And under the treaty on collective security signed by Russia in May last year with Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, it has assumed the commitment to defend these republics in the event of aggression against any of them.

Yet guerrilla warfare is also dangerous in that it is very difficult to define it as an act of aggression or foreign intervention. It could burn for decades with a slow, creeping, attritional flame. Today there is evidence of the participation of Afghan mujahidin on the side of the opposition not only as instructors but also as fighters. Incidentally, in Peshawar it was decided to put Afghans with experience of guerrilla warfare against the Soviet Army at the head of the detachments of gunmen. And for the local inhabitants the state allegiance of the gunmen is of no importance: Ethnically they are one people. And the gunmen intend to fight, complying with the requirements of the field regulations which operated in Afghanistan: Touch discipline, shooting for looting, and all-around assistance to the civilian Muslim population. And on whose sides will the people's sympathy be?

The opposition armed formations are being supplied not only from Afghan territory. There are reports that fuel and food are being delivered to them by, for instance, criminal groupings from Kyrgyzstan. The opposition is unstinting, paying twice over for the goods: In Peshawar it was decided to allocate it part of the revenue from the drugs trade. Some laboratories for the processing of raw opium in the Afghan provinces of Badakhshan, Konar, and Nangarhar have been put at the Tajiks' disposal. The processed heroin is sent via Pakistan to the West and materiel is bought with the money obtained. And although there are reports of the use of British mines to mine the roads, they will obviously buy Russian weapons. They are cheaper and, Pavel Grachev promised, exports to the Muslim countries will be increased. It is convenient to fight using the enemy's high-quality weapons: There are no problems with combat training, repair, or the retraining of personnel.

There are 10-12 million Russians living in Central Asia. The threat to their lives and property is giving rise to new streams of refugees. In turn the Muslim population in Russia totals approximately 25 million. And even a tiny proportion with support from outside could introduce a split to the Muslims' spiritual life. This version of the development of events cannot be ruled out given the present apathetic attitude of the country's political leadership toward events in Central Asia.

Counting on the 201st division does not stand up to criticism. Today even in the combat respect it does not present a serious threat. In addition in terms of its legal status it is a Russian military unit and if it is drawn into an armed conflict Russia could be declared the aggressor, coming up against the hostility of the entire Muslim world.

The opposing sides in the present critical situation can hardly come to a compromise. They are linked by blood in this conflict. So the time has come for a wise broker to come onto the scene.

Yeltsin Addresses Civic Union, Supports 'Division of Powers'

LD2802210993 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1723 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Speech by President Boris Yeltsin at Civic Union forum in Moscow on 28 February—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed forum participants, I am grateful to the leadership of Civic Union for their invitation for me to take part and address you.

This is not the first time we have met. Of course, we met previously in a smaller group, as they say, but today's meeting may perhaps for the first time lay the basis for a series of consultations between the president and various political forces in Russia in the search for a consensus.

A constitutional crisis exists in the country: The absolute power of the Soviets and the division of powers, these two principles cannot coexist in one constitution; no such thing exists in the world. In such a situation they cannot be simultaneously implemented in practice, the more so with the amendments that were adopted at the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies. It is the same as saying: Let's share powers, provided that one side can do everything.

A choice must be made: Either we return to the absolute power of the Soviets, or we go ahead with the normal division of power which is accepted throughout the world. In the Constitution it is also described: Each of the two powers has its own rights and obligations. This choice will have to be made sooner or later in any case, and the longer we put it off, the longer this confusion, which is ruinous for Russia, will continue.

Of course this is a most complex problem. It cannot be resolved at one stroke, but the main thing is to move in the right direction and to maintain the balance of powers at each stage.

At the seventh congress, a certain compromise was reached. Even with Nikolay Ilyich Travkin we were able to reach agreement, on the conciliation commission, and to refute the view that an insurmountable gap is dividing us. The most important result of the congress was the decision to stabilize the constitutional crisis situation in Russia. But almost immediately, the agreement reached began to be undermined, with both certain clauses and the agreement as a whole being called into question. The proposal on [word indistinct] of the Constitution which has been put forward recently by the Supreme Soviet is not only upsetting the balance of power, but also radically changing the situation. That is not the Constitution I have given my allegiance to.

What is at issue is the policy of directly renouncing the principle of the division of powers, and turning its constitutional nature into cosmetic gloss or a meaningless embellishment. To pretend that nothing is happening is naive, to put it mildly. If we want to preserve the equilibrium between the legislative and the executive powers, both from above and from below, let us seek ways to manage this problem, not turn away from it. Russia has to pay too high a price for this problem. This, above all, renders the government unable to act, and all the more so considering that the executive power's possibilities are now unmanageable. This is the direct result of the contradiction between Russia being split and all power being vested in the people. [sentence as heard]

They now speak of power dualism existing in the executive bodies. Yes, that does exist. The Supreme Soviet is concentrating into its own hands ever more day-to-day executive functions in management, governance, and finance. The government is being increasingly hampered in its work, and is losing all opportunity to conduct the reforms. This applies also to control of federal property and investment policy, and to the way that the legislature is controlling federal funds that are outside the budget. Just a few days ago the charter of yet another state extra-budgetary fund was endorsed, aimed at reviving the minerals and raw materials economy of the Russian Federation [words indistinct].

It is a fact that in Russia, alongside the constitutional government, there is another in operation, under the auspices of the Supreme Soviet. This is only exacerbating the situation in the economy and in all walks of life, especially since society is split, as confirmed yet again by the events in Moscow on 23 February. I can no longer tolerate such a situation. We all are experiencing a shortage of opportunities and ideas for extricating ourselves from this difficult situation. Perhaps today we will come to a decision. People will get their second wind if they see a clear aim in future, even if only for the immediate period ahead. Only in that case can they continue to have confidence in the authorities.

I consider the crisis currently being experienced by the country as the high point of concentrated effort before recovery. We have no right to let events develop in any other direction. The only way to overcome the crisis is by broad and close cooperation of all the forces in society interested in moving forward. The situation requires it; the citizens of Russia expect it. In 1991 we all managed to oppose reaction and prevent Russia from moving toward revolution, as it did the early part of this century. All sound people successfully defended democracy then, including those who later turned their support to the Civil Union. Many of them are in this magnificent hall now.

Today we all are faced with an equally important task: to prevent an explosion of counterrevolution in the country, for that would ruin not only the reforms and democracy, but Russia itself. Calls for insurrection, for civil war, for bloody revenge, are becoming ever louder. The time has come for such calls to be dealt with in accordance with the law. For if it does happen, all these disputes between the branches of power, quarrels and squabbles between parties and leaders would look like child's play. Only concord between Russia's political forces, its state institutions, on the key issues of the country's development can open an way forward.

I very much appreciate the fact that the Civic Union brings together quite a large number of parties and public organizations. I welcome any kind of consultation, be it at round or square tables, bilateral contacts, work with the opposition, or the president's and the Supreme Soviet's working groups. This is where powerful impulses for the convergence of all reformist forces ought to come from. After all, we saw each other and reached an understanding that these groups would work to prepare a constitutional agreement. Or perhaps there is also the option of adopting a law on power at the Supreme Soviet, and to divide the rights and duties clearly between the powers. Unfortunately, owing to the vagueness of the Supreme Soviet's position, this work is proceeding sluggishly for the time being. There is no understanding on the part of parliament of the importance of this work.

For my part, I am willing to travel this whole difficult path to the end. Russia needs concord too badly to reject anything that gives even the slightest chance for it to be achieved. There is a basis for this. We are united in wanting to revive Russia, above all as a integral, united, and multinational state. Our history has confirmed many times that its multinational composition is not Russia's weakness, but its strength. I am convinced even today that this truth is not outdated. It will be significant in our country in all ages.

The complicated process of transforming a rigidly bureaucratic state into a federative one has begun already, and all Russia's reformers agree that its future lies in an effective and balanced federation. What is more, an outstanding and worthy role should be played in it by its subjects: republics, autonomies, krays, oblasts, and also regional associations. I am convinced that a Council of the Federation [Sovet Federatsii] with equal representation needs to be set up.

I think all the country's reformist forces are agreed that Russia's state structure should be based on the principle of division of powers. Without it there will be neither order nor responsibility nor reform. If we reject this, we will get either dictatorship or anarchy. Both would be equally detrimental for Russia.

I have no doubt that all reformers agree that the economy demands an enormous concentration of the effort of the whole of society. The country vitally needs not the fragmentation, not the dispersal of the economic and financial resources, forces and funds, but their concentration. Economic freedom and not an anti-economic free-for-all: that is what Russia needs today.

As president, I assure the head of government: I believe in the government, in the leadership of Chernomyrdin. The Council of Ministers is capable of getting on top of the situation and stopping the slide that leads to catastrophe, and of achieving an improvement initially, at least, in two or three areas. I will continue to do everything to ensure that the government has the most favorable opportunities for work.

I consider that the Supreme Soviet should take a step back and give the government maximum freedom in the economic field. This is precisely the point of the agreement, the draft of which was was recently officially set before parliament. I have already received quite a few ideas and proposals from the Constitutional Commission, from the Committee for Legalislation, from deputies and public figures. I regard this draft as a basis for further work in which both the Civic Union and Democratic Choice, and all political forces advocating revival of Russia, can and should take part.

I am sure that all the reformist forces of the country are agreed that Russia vitally needs internal stability, especially now. Without it, guarantees for the safety of our citizens, peace in their homes, and law and order on the streets alike will remain empty words.

Personally, I believe it to be of major importance that Russian Federation Vice President Aleksandr Vladimirovich Rutskoy, who is one of the Civic Union's leaders, is in charge of working out ways of coordinating anticrime activity in Russia.

We all favor integration within the framework of the Commonwealth. Our countries, which until recently constituted one country, perceive especially strongly today how great their mutual interdependence is. It is simply impossible to overlook this in policymaking. On the contrary, we must take maximum advantage of this situation. Consistently and on many occasions Russia has been speaking in favor of integration within the framework of the Commonwealth. We are prepared to engage in open-style confederation relations in certain spheres right now, with those states that agree to this. I am sure that their number will grow as time goes on.

Stopping all armed conflicts on the territory of the former USSR is Russia's vital interest. The world community sees more and more clearly Russia's special responsibility in this difficult undertaking. I believe the time has come for distinguished international organizations, including the United Nations, to grant Russia special powers as guarantor of peace and stability in regions of the former USSR.

One can go on endlessly describing the most complicated problems overwhelming Russia today. I have no doubt that people of common sense will perceive a great deal of similarity in most of them. This makes it even more intolerable to keep playing musical chairs, probing around, putting out feelers. It is time to move toward wide-ranging dialogue and multifaceted cooperation. If some of this is my fault, then I am prepared to re-assess my stance, from the standpoint of enhancing our cooperation and dialogue. I have acquainted myself with political proposals worked out by the Civic Union. You are aware of the president's positions. I have had yet another opportunity to see that we have no major disagreements in perceiving the situation. There is a foundation for dialogue; there is a foundation for a broader range of consultations, for interaction on the basis of consensus. I am ready for it.

Let me reiterate: I am ready to go all the way with all reformist forces existing in Russia. You are also aware of my attitude to the referendum: There are no countries where the constitution, laws, bodies of power would foresee everything and replace the common sense of the whole nation. When politicians and authorities start running short of prudence, then citizens must have their say. Therefore, one of the two: Either we have enough common sense to accept the agreement, or we should go for the referendum. The president's formulations are ready, but I am still waiting and so far have not published them. I hope that in the next few days, the Supreme Soviet finally will submit its official version of the referendum's questions.

Esteemed forum participants, I am convinced that our country's best days lie ahead. Our country will do the maximum... [pauses] Our task is to do the maximum to help our country at this difficult time. Only agreement and cooperation with all forces that reject civil upheaval and war and are not intoxicated with a thirst for revenge are capable of giving Russia stability. We will attain it if we truly want the best for our country and people.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate you Russians, particularly those whose attitude to this is one of full respect, on today's festival of Forgiveness Sunday. [applause] Do not forget, when people ask you to forgive them, to say in response: God will forgive you. [applause and laughter]

Yeltsin 'Satisfied' With Congress

OW2802130693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1244 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press secretary of Russia's president, Vyacheslav Kostikov, has said Boris Yeltsin does not regret his visit to the Civic Union congress on Sunday [28 February]. In answer to the questions of journalists who covered the congress he said: the president views his visit to the forum as a serious step in the direction of gaining civic accord, and as the first step toward a series of political consultations he intends to conduct.

According to Kostikov, the president "is largely satisfied with what he heard at the congress, even though, in the press secretary's view, he heard no ideas that could be considered as breakthroughs there.

"The field of political consensus with which it will be possible to move forward" is getting crystallized gradually, said Kostikov. Several leading members of the Civic Union asked for a meeting with Yeltsin, he said. In answer to a question from IF [INTERFAX]'s correspondent the press secretary said that such a meeting might take place next week, since the president has given instructions to find time for it in his work schedule.

With reference to relations between Boris Yeltsin and the Vice- President, Aleksandr Rutskoy, Kostikov said: "the process of rapprochement that is necessary between them, and the efforts to overcome the unnatural situation, when the vice-president seemed to exist separately from the president, have begun between them". "I believe that both sides are willing to surmount their differences," the press secretary added.

Rutskoy Advocates 'Cardinal Changes' in Reform Policy

OW2802110293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1049 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, who is a leader of the Civic Union alliance of political parties and organizations, advocates cardinal changes in the policy of reforms. During the Civic Union's congress on Sunday, he assured President Yeltsin that the Civic Union would give political support to the course of economic and political reforms.

Rutskoy said that "the unification of forces for the sake of social progress and the population's well-being, and on the basis of the democratic center's positions, represents the only reasonable and promising response to the challenges of the time". He also backed the idea of adopting a law on power for the transitional period, on the basis of the current constitution, noting that a council of the Federation, led by the Russian President and the parliament's chairman, might become the guarantors of its implementation.

Rutskoy believes that such a council might consist of the leaders of the executive and legislative bodies of the Russian Federation's constituent state entities. He also thinks that with the participation of the Constitutional Commission such a body might become the forerunner of a constitutional assembly that would draft and adopt a new constitution. Given this, a referendum and an extraordinary congress of people's deputies will not be needed, he said. He also added that the law on power might be adopted next spring during the regular congress of people's deputies.

Aleksandr Rutskoy said that in economic terms, the year 1992 was characterized by growing economic crisis, continuing inflation and the population's falling living standards. "The shock therapy did not justify itself," he said. He also noted that among the causes of the crisis were "exaggerated belief in the Western experts' rightness and in the monetary concepts".

To quote Rutskoy, priority should be given to measures to stimulate production and entrepreneurship in the industrial and service sphere. Besides that, the economy should be made more governable and its state regulation should be increased, he added.

Speaking about the current financial situation, Rutskoy noted that a "frontal dollar intervention" was going on now and that the current ruble to dollar exchange rate was "fantastic nonsense". He also said that it was extremely difficult to stabilize the monetary circulation, given the current condition of the ruble zone. In view of this, he urged to establish an inter-state bank within the framework of the CIS.

Rutskoy Backs Yeltsin Proposals

LD2802120593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1055 GMT 28 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—The idea of creating a federation council, which President Boris Yeltsin proposed today at the opening of the Civic Union forum, has been backed by Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy. He noted that a constitutional assembly to elaborate and adopt a new constitution should be organized on the basis of this council.

The Russian state must have a strong president and a strong parliament with equal respect for both the laws and the Constitution, Rutskoy stressed. All branches of power in Russia must act to strengthen Russia's statehood and create normal living conditions for the individual. These goals are still being sacrificed to political ambitions and the search for an enemy. It is now clear to everyone, the vice president went on to say, that the president and the congress have come into head-long collision with those who cannot conceive themselves as being other than in a battle against everyone and everything.

Rutskoy approved of the proposal to the Supreme Soviet which Yeltsin made in his speech that they adopt a law on power during the transitional period. Such a law, Rutskoy emphasized, could be adopted for the transitional period on the basis of the existing Constitution. It should designate the rights and powers of the Supreme Soviet, the president and the government and should also stipulate the penalty for non-compliance with this law. The vice president considers that a federation council headed by the president and the Supreme Soviet chairman could act as the guarantors of this along with the Supreme Court.

Representatives of executive power and of the soviets of the republics could join the Council of the Federation, and with the participation of the Constitutional Commission this body could become the prototype of the Constitutional Assembly for drawing up and adopted the new constitution. This body could coordinate political and economic reform, Rutskoy considers. Thus the need to hold a referendum or another congress would disappear. The law itself could be passed at the next Congress of People's Deputies, where the program of anti-crisis measures in the sphere of Russia's economy could also be examined.

Rutskoy spoke about the priority tasks in the economic sphere, relating to the stabilization of production and the slowing-down of inflation. "It must not be a matter now of adjusting our economic course: Our whole course must be radically changed," he said to applause from the hall. In particular, he said the priority measures were to develop production, intensify entrepreneurial activity and make the national economy manageable.

The second forum of the Civic Union is continuing its work. Three major parties make up this influential centrist political bloc—the people's party "Free Russia," of which Aleksandr Rutskoy is the leader, the all-Russian union "Renewal," and the Democratic Party of Russia. The Russian Union of Youth, the Democratic Party of Russia's youth union, and several Russian parliamentary factions are also in it. Today, the chairman of the executive committee of the Civic Union, Vasiliy Lipitskiy stressed, this is not a matter of a congress, but a forum because it is not proposed to adopt any documents, program or choices, it is proposed only to listen to speeches by representatives of the main parties in the Union and compare opinions.

Civic Union 'Ready for Dialogue'

OW2802174393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1728 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Leader of the centrist Civic Union [CU] alliance Vasiliy Lipitzkiy described Mr Yeltsin's arrival at the CU forum as the President's outstretched hand to the CU.

Speaking at the end of the CU congress in Moscow on Sunday, he said Mr Yeltsin's hand would not remain suspended in the air and that the CU as a whole was ready for dialogue with the President. Lipitizky was happy over over the forum's outcome saying it was very important for all CU groups to speak out in the run up to the Congress of People's Deputies.

On some outspoken criticism of Yeltsin, including that by leader of the New Blood-New Policy parliamentary faction Andrey Golovin, the CU leader said the speeches were balanced despite some outburst.

[Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1728 GMT on 28 February adds the following: "Boris Yeltsin has begun to understand that the situation is so complicated that he will have to seek support for the reforms course outside of his own personal circles. This was how Aleksandr Vladislavlev, one of the leaders of the Civic Union centrist political bloc, evaluated the Russian president's arrival and speech at a Civic Union forum on Sunday [28 February].

["In an interview with Interfax correspondents and the radio station Echo of Moscow he evaluated highly the president's readiness to consult with various forces, but added that such dialogues could be effective only 'if Yeltsin becomes president of all of Russia, and not just Democratic Russia.'

["The Civic Union leader called 'absurd' the situation in the Russian government, in which the new prime minister 'has been robbed of the opportunity to form a team of like-minded people.' Now the situation depends on whether the prime minister will find political drive and form a team, stressed Vladislavlev. 'If he is unable to do so, the government will be literally paralyzed. Because there is no organizational concurrence of professional interests between Chernomyrdin's group and the group of young guys from Gaydar's team.'"]

Leadership Performance Criticized

LD2802162693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1559 GMT 28 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Alexandrova]

[Text] Moscow, 28 February (TASS)—The debate at the Civil Union's second forum was marked by comparatively strident criticism of the authorities.

Alexandr Vladislavlyev, co-chairman of the All-Russian Union Obnovleniye (Renewal), emphasised that the country "paid with impoverishment" for its renewal. Modern-day reformers shunned the logic of creativity and gave preference to the logic of destruction. "the narrow circle of people assumed the right to decide the destinies of the country," he stressed.

Vladislavlyev believes that "it is time to abandon the mechanical shift of foreign ideas to national soil."

"We are centrists, but we understand centrism not as spinelessness. We cannot slide down to primitive opposition, we need an unsparing struggle against all authorities," Vladislavlev noted.

Russian Democratic Party board secretary Ilya Roitman said changes ought to be made in the Constitution by the Russian Democratic Party's decision: to disband the Congress and hold parliamentary and presidential elections not later than Spring 1994. The party considers it possible not to hold these elections simultaneously.

Roitman thinks that this issue should be put to a referendum. The Democratic Party has already launched a signature collection campaign. If the decision on the referendum is not adopted, the party will take on itself the initiative for collecting signatures.

"In contrast to groups of deputies which are part of the Civil Union, we think that the issue of early elections should be solved immediately," roitman told ITAR-TASS. "The law on elections must be changed and elections be set. This is the sole way out of all crises. People should decide which government they want."

Another co-chairman of the All-Russian Union Obnovleniye, Igor Smirnov, believes that the "forum was a planned event and did not come as something suprising in content." Smirnov said he hoped that Boris Yeltsin will make a very restraint statement on readiness for cooperation.

There are differences among participants inside the Civil Union but "no disagreements." In Smirnov's view, they are united by the dissatisfiction with the president's performance.

Yeltsin Message Raises Constitutional Legality

LD2802224193 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1900 GMT 28 Feb 93

[From the "Itogi" program]

[Excerpt] [Announcer Yevgeniy Kiselev] At the end of the working week, there was a development which has so far attracted little attention. However, it can add confusion to the current situation. A report from a source at Russia's White House indicates that a message from President Yeltsin was received there, containing the following words, and I quote: I ask the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation and the Congress of People's Deputies, if they are to prepare any changes in the constitution of the Russian Federation, to examine prior to that the annual message from the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation on the state of constitutional legality in the Russian Federation, and to take into account the views expressed therein; end of quote.

It is also known that Valeriy Zorkin, chairman of the Constitutional Court, has also received a letter from the president, in which he asks for attention to be paid to possible reasons behind the constitutional crisis which may lie in the Constitution itself.

Here to comment is Yuriy Baturin, doctor of jurisprudence.

[Begin Baturin recording] The idea behind the president's address to the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Soviet is presumably the restoration of a triangular structure of the talks on agreement, as they had been originally envisaged. At present, the Constitutional Court has somewhat retreated into the shadows, after the initial stage of peacekeeping efforts on the part of its chairman and the criticism from mass media. The president, relying on the law on the Constitutional Court, asked the court not to delay its annual message to the Supreme Soviet on the state of constitutional legality in the country, which is only logical in the context of a constitutional crisis. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Chernomyrdin Misses Surgut Meeting Because of Flu

LD2802205693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2035 GMT 28 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Feb—Due to a bad case of the flu, Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers, has cancelled his trip to Surgut, Tyumen oblast, where on 1-2 March the CIS states, Azerbaijan, and Georgia are due to hold a conference on the questions of cooperation in Russian Federation oil and gas industries. It was the government medical center which told the ITAR-TASS correspondent of Viktor Chernomyrdin's illness.

The Russian Federation delegation to the Surgut conference will be headed by Vice Premier Georgiy Khizha.

Democratic Russia Urges Referendum, New Constitution

OW2802111193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1050 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The plenary meeting of the Democratic Russia movement's Council of Representatives, held in Nizhnyy Novgorod, urged the Russian president to include in the April referendum the questions of private ownership, including private land ownership, and the adoption of a new constitution by a constituent (constitutional) assembly, generally elected on the basis of the political organizations's lists, whether or not the Russian parliament and the Congress of People's Deputies approve of this idea. The plenary meeting's resolution also says that the people's inalienable right to a referendum, particularly the referendum on the term and volume of the federal authoritative bodies' powers, should be confirmed.

This document also says that if the Congress of People's Deputies annuls the agreement reached on December 12, 1992 on the stabilization of the constitutional system, thus depriving the nation of its inalienable right to a referendum, it will place itself above the law.

According to INTERFAX sources, on Saturday [27 February], re- election of the Democratic Russia's co-chairmen was held. Following secret ballot, the following people were elected out of the 20 candidates: Galina Starovoitova, Lev Ponomaryov, Gleb Yakunin, Ilya Zaslavsky and Grigory Tomchin.

On Sunday, the plenary meeting is expected to elect members of the coordinating council.

Renewal Union Criticizes 'Power Crisis'

LD2702183793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1825 GMT 27 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow February 27 TASS—The first congress of the Russian Renovation Union [Renewal Union] opened at the House of Unions today.

A report of party council co-chairman and first vice-president of the All-Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, which is part of the Civic Union bloc, Aleksandr Vladislavlev sharply criticized the authorities' activities in political and economic spheres.

Many express disagreement with the fact they had to pay for the renovation with impoverishment, devastation of production, scientific and technical potential and legal arbitrariness, he said. It has become clear political forces making the country's destiny are not able to offer a real transformation strategy.

"There is a power crisis in the country. It shows in the clear inability to execute power under new conditions—this goes for both the president team, the parliament, the government and each of us," said Vladislavlev.

The report notes political radicalism has affected the economy. This is much explained by mistakes of the Gaydar government. Today's government strategy is also determined by Gaydar advocates. "Victor Chernomyrdin, whom all of us value, has not shown his political will," he believes.

Head of the Renovation Union Executive Committee Igor Smirnov said over the seven months which passed since the constituent conference, the Renovation Union has turned into a real party. In his words, over half of party members are heads of commercial and industrial enterprises. About one fourth of party members are scientific and creative intellectuals. Administration heads of 36 territories and regions actively support the party.

After discussing the reports, congress participants adopted a package of program documents.

A union program contains proposals on ways to overcome the economic, state structure and cultural crises. "The strategic aim of the Renovation Union is a powerful democratic state and efficient socially-oriented market economy," says the program.

The document stresses the strategy of industrial-technological breakthrough and regulated transition to the market most correspond to the long-term national and state interests of Russia: These are stage-by-stage social reorientation of the economy based on high technologies, output of sophisticated home appliances and housing construction.

Opposes Referendum

OW2702175793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1717 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The first congress of All-Russian Union Revival [Renewal Union] held on Saturday [27 February] in Moscow opposes organization of the referendum. According to the delegates, there is no constitutional crisis in Russia but there is a crisis of disrespect towards the Constitution. The resolution adopted by them states that to conduct referendum under the situation of political instability means to demonstrate political shortsightedness and incompetence.

The document cites that it is inadmissible for the state power to turn into factor of destabilization. At the same time it is impossible to abolish the referendum without the consent of the Congress and President. The delegates of the Congress believe that obligations to adopt a new Constitution as soon as possible and to conduct premature elections of the representatives and executive federative authorities in spring 1994 are the only provisions to annul the referendum.

The political program of the All-Russian Union Revival adopted at the congress as the basis for its pre-election platform proclaims "a strong democratic state and efficient socially oriented regulated market economy" as its main aim.

The economic program of the Union contains a demand to undertake resolute measures to stop the industrial recession, growth of unemployment, and fall of people's living standard. In particular, the Union stands for establishing marginal prices for energy and fuel and raw materials. According to the program's authors, a policy maneuvering between an acceptable inflation level - 10-15% a month and an acceptable budget deficit - about 10% of the GNP is necessary for a certain period to surmount the crisis.

Fedorov Says Curbing Inflation 'Major Goal'

OW2602203193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1929 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Vice-Premier Boris Fedorov said that reducing the inflation rate was a major goal of the government which works for financial stabilization. At present the inflation is soaring so high, he told journalists in St. Petersburg on Friday [26 February], that nothing can be planned.

"With this kind of inflation neither production increase, nor investment inflow, nor currency stabilization are possible," he said. Asked what inflation rate would make management of the economy possible, the vice-premier said that it is five percent in a month, which is also very high. But this "is a specific goal; when it is achieved, at least some variables can be planned," he said.

He also expressed concern with the outflow of Russian capitals abroad "that won't stop." "In the foreign market the country found itself bankrupt," he emphasized.

Referring to the state's financial condition as catastrophic the vice-premier made it clear that "no new road for Russia can possibly exist" and that the well-known economic laws and mechanisms should be used. He was critical of the Central Bank of Russia. Under the guise of crediting commercial banks the CBR acts as the former Gosbank of the USSR did. Fedorov said that "the government will counter the bank's efforts to facilitate the supervision of the banking system through limiting the equity capital of commercial banks and its attempts to freeze the ruble-to- dollar exchange rate at some quantities that are out of touch with real life."

Kryuchkov Makes Allegations Against Yakovlev

PM2602141893 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 13 Feb 93 pp 1, 5

["Extracts" from memoirs of former USSR KGB Chairman Vladimir Kryuchkov: "Ambassador of Misfortune"—first paragraph is SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA introduction]

[Text] We would like to draw our readers' attention to extracts from the memoirs of former USSR KGB Chairman Vladimir Kryuchkov, who is currently awaiting trial in Moscow in the so-called "State Committee for the State of Emergency [SCSE] case." Written during the author's 18-month sojourn in jail, the book is currently being prepared for publication, and these extracts from it are published here for the first time.

There is a truth which I must not and am simply not entitled to carry away with me. I am talking about things that are of extreme importance not just from the point of view of state interests, but also, perhaps, in general to the subsequent fate of our entire people.

What I intend to relate does not simply concern Aleksandr Nikolayevich Yakovlev alone; to be more precise, my story is not even principally about him. The story linked with his name was so serious that over a long period of time, I admit, it literally tormented me, forced me to ponder far larger problems, and confronted me with a very difficult choice. At the time, unfortunately, it was never completely elucidated, although now, looking back, I can say with conviction that I personally have no more doubts... Information I received unofficially about A.N. Yakovlev—via KGB channels (intelligence and counterintelligence)—is perfectly borne out by all his actions and behavior and maps clearly onto the events that occurred in our country. This information sheds light on the true motives for the behavior of other persons, primarily of the man who won himself dubious glory abroad under the title of "the first German," but at home won merely disdain and hatred from all those who, regardless of their nationality, until recently proudly dignified themselves with the simple title of Soviet people.

Prior to 1985 A.N. Yakovlev was practically unknown to me personally; I had seen him just a couple of times, but I had already heard a thing or two about him. Our first meeting may have been in 1983. At that time I was working as chief of the KGB First Main Directorate, that is to say I was head of Soviet external intelligence. When I was informed that A. Yakovlev, who at that time was

USSR ambassador to Canada, would like to meet with me, I was not surprised. There was nothing odd about this—ambassadors regularly visited our service. After all, we always had many questions to ask one another: Agents strove to assist the ambassadors in their work, and for their part the ambassadors often gave us useful help in fulfilling our own tasks.

Before receiving Yakovlev, I found out from the staffers running the Canadian section which issues in particular my guest would want to deal with, what I should be prepared for. It turned out that, in asking for a chat, the ambassador had not identified any special topics for discussion, saying that the conversation would be general. I recall that, for this reason, the thought had even flashed across my mind that I should task one of my deputies with chatting to Yakovlev, but my comrades were certain that the ambassador was bound to complain about our service, make sharp criticisms of our residency staffers and the central apparatus, and might even drop hints about the desirability of completely winding up our operational work in Canada. If the conversation becomes frank, my comrades stressed in conclusion, Yakovlev will "hit out at the KGB as a whole." It is, they said, his "favorite hobbyhorse."

It was at precisely this moment, as I recall, that Yu.V. Andropov, who by then was already general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, called me about some other matter. Exploiting this call, I noted in passing that I had an upcoming meeting with A. Yakovlev. It immediately became clear that Yuriy Vladimirovich also held a far from flattering opinion of Yakovlev. He not only stressed the man's insincerity ("God knows what he really thinks!"), but, moreover, expressed major doubts about Yakovlev's irreproachability with regard to the Soviet state as a whole. At this point Yu.V. Andropov said that "Yakovlev has been sitting in Canada for 10 years now, it is time to bring him back to Moscow." "By the way," Yuriy Vladimirovich noted, "some people are making strenuous efforts to get Yakovlev back to Moscow, so let them rejoice." Those making strenuous efforts on Yakovlev's behalf included G. Arbatov, who back in the Brezhnev days, according to Yu. Andropov, had been instrumental in sending Yakovlev as far as possible from Moscow to work as an ambassador, "and now all of a sudden he cannot live without this rogue for some reason." Yes, it was with this very phrase, his description of Yakovlev as a "rogue," that Yuriy Vladimirovich concluded our telephone conversation. I have subsequently recalled this short but very pithy description given by Andropov on several occasions; note that this was back in 1983....

My meeting with Yakovlev passed off strictly in accordance with the scenario that had been predicted to me. Complaints about intelligence service staffers poured forth in a never-ending torrent, and he had it in for the entire KGB on an even bigger scale. At first, it is true, his assessments were cloaked in mild, even cautious expressions, but the subtext was clear—why, he said, is our intelligence necessary in Canada at all, and who needs it? "It is just a futile waste of effort and money," the ambassador claimed heatedly. Aleksandr Nikolayevich was convinced that all the residency's agents were doing was spending their time keeping tabs on him—through eavesdropping, external surveillance, checks on his mail, general monitoring of his remarks, and "digging around in his dirty linen." Yes, Aleksandr Nikolayevich's underwear was indeed none too "fresh" at the time. If our staffers had indeed been doing what Mr. Yakovlev said they were doing, I think we would have found out far earlier about certain "details" which until now this "architect" of perestroyka has tried to keep carefully hidden....

I tried to let my interlocutor have his say, I did not interrupt him, but at the end of our conversation A. Yakovlev nevertheless knew where I stood. I said that there were even more shortcomings and blunders in our work than the ambassador had identified, but... I personally thought that such negative appraisals by Yakovlev regarding the intelligence service and the KGB as a whole were unacceptable because I was firmly convinced that they were simply untrue... I must say that after this fairly resolute rebuttal, Yakovlev quickly collected himself and displayed such flexibility that the concluding part of our conversation passed off in quite a different vein and was marked by unalloyed "amicability."

But nevertheless my first impressions of this personal meeting with Yakovlev remained unchanged—they fully bore out the remarks made about him by Yu.V. Andropov. The suspicious, prickly look of Aleksandr Nikolayevich, his clearly expressed ill will, his unique ability to rapidly change his viewpoint, to switch from the assessment he had just made to a completely contrary one, all stuck in my memory.

Shortly after the events I have described A.N. Yakovlev (with the assistance of M.S. Gorbachev) returned to the Union and was immediately appointed director of the USSR Academy of Sciences World Economics and International Relations Institute. He quite swiftly became a member of M. Gorbachev's unofficial team, helping him to prepare material for reports and articles. Our contacts with Yakovlev began to be more frequent. In 1985 Yakovlev went back to work in the CPSU Central Committee, finally linking his future with Gorbachev, and joined him in launching perestroyka, which, as is well known, at first took place under the less than intelligible slogan of acceleration. Many people at that time had no idea where this acceleration should lead and why or where this headlong race was going, but only now have we seen for ourselves at long last where we were hurrying and what our destination has been.

The country did indeed need changes, a renewal of the system that existed in our country, and some adjustment of political course. Some things should have been resolutely abandoned (of course, radicalism could not entirely be avoided here), and there was a need for new approaches. Gorbachev himself used to speak of this, and A. Yakovlev would begin and end his speeches and articles by making this point. How can you object? In general, it all seems to be correct. Many people were in favor of this, myself included. Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov spoke of the need for change long before Gorbachev. Admittedly, he did so less sweepingly, with the certain degree of caution characteristic of a responsible politician. You could see a desire to rally the Union, to strengthen the state, to impose order in the country, and to tighten up discipline. I suppose it's possible that Gorbachev himself initially thought in similar terms (although certain information now makes me doubt even this). But Aleksandr Nikolayevich Yakovlev was by no means originally seeking this!

I not only say that with the utmost responsibility, I know what I am talking about. Now that we have all witnessed so many events, so many disasters and misfortunes have befallen our people, and many questions have already been answered, the sinister role that A. Yakovlev played in all these matters has also become clearer. You would think that all masks have long since been set aside and Aleksandr Nikolayevich at last appears before us in his full true guise as evil "genius" and fateful figure in our history!

A.N. Yakovlev did everything possible to ensure that Gorbachev came to power. He needed Gorbachev, nobody else!.. It has to be admitted that Yakovlev did not have particularly good levers in order to achieve this, but he tried hard and rejoiced sincerely when Gorbachev eventually became general secretary in 1985. There was still a long way to go, but the first victory had been won and the destructive plan consistently began to be implemented.

A legitimate question arises: How come Aleksandr Nikolayevich suddenly conceived such love for Mikhail Sergeyevich, what was the link between two seemingly so different people? They got to know each other in the late seventies, when Soviet Ambassador to Canada A.N. Yakovlev danced attendance on M.S. Gorbachev, at that time a little-known Politburo member and CPSU Central Committee secretary for agriculture, during his official visit to that country. I did not notice Yakovlev speak too highly of Gorbachev either then or later, but from that time on he did his utmost to strengthen his positions and made a point of always being at his side. I have already mentioned that on his return to Moscow Aleksandr Nikolayevich actively helped Gorbachev to prepare public speeches that were full of talk of loyalty to the party, devotion to the cause of socialism, love for the motherland, and so forth. But the remarks that came from the tongue of Yakovlev himself were often very different. At first this was in the form of careless, seemingly casual remarks, but gradually these same ideas appeared in the form of individual propositions, were expressed as views, and entire works were devoted to them.

Yakovlev rejected the Union and regarded our country as an empire in which the Union republics were deprived of any freedoms. Aleksandr Nikolayevich also regarded Russia without a trace of respect and I never heard him say a single good word about the Russian people. Indeed, the very concept of "people" apparently never existed so far as he was concerned. It was Yakovlev who played virtually a decisive role in destabilizing the situation in the Baltic republics and in the Caucasus. In the Baltic republics he did his utmost to encourage nationalist, separatist feeling and unequivocally encouraged "aspirations" for secession. In the Caucasus he "sympathized" with Armenia and essentially incited the Armenians to act against Azerbaijan and he stoked the situation surrounding the Karabakh problem. In general he always spoke of Azerbaijan with clear hostility....

Yakovlev could not stand the Soviet socialist system, spoke of kolkhozes and sovkhozes with irritation, and made no secret of his unequivocally negative attitude toward state ownership while worshiping private ownership. So far as he was concerned the entire Soviet period of our history was nothing but a black page. Later on, when it had become fashionable for people to make no secret of their real views, Aleksandr Nikolayevich was harshly negative in his assessments of October, Lenin, and the whole socialist choice in general. He simply hated the CPSU and saw no place for it in our life. After August 1991 he spoke of this with emphatic ostentation.

I never once heard Yakovlev speak warmly of the motherland and never noticed him express pride in anything, for instance, our victory in the Great Patriotic War. This particularly astonished me—after all, Yakovlev himself took part in the war. Clearly the desire to destroy and debunk absolutely everything prevailed over fairness, the most natural human feelings, and elementary decency regarding the motherland and his own people.

I have outlined only a few of Yakovlev's most characteristic views and features... Ultimately anyone is free to act in accordance with his own convictions, and different people can have the most diametrically opposed views. However, if you are a leader of a party that professes principles diametrically opposed to your convictions, there is only one way out. Present your concept to the party, present it openly and publicly, and if it is rejected, leave! Especially as from the late eighties there were plenty of political movements of all sorts in the country, so it was perfectly possible to find something to your taste....

But Yakovlev took a different path: He preferred to conceal his real views—he said one thing but did quite another. He glorified October, Lenin, and socialism and sang the praises of the party while in fact doing his utmost to denigrate our history, wreck the existing system, and undermine ideology. So Aleksandr Nikolayevich was hypocritical and showed his true face only when the suitable moment arrived for this. See how brave he is, on top of everything! He never deemed it necessary to conceal his convictions, or so he says! Everything would seem to be clear—a case of common or garden hypocrisy, which has been characteristic of any political intrigues from time immemorial. But no, it is still too soon to close this question.

I have every reason to raise the following question: Have all masks really been set aside, isn't this man again concealing another, even more unsavory face behind a superficial facade? I will explain below what I mean by this. But first I would like to touch on yet another characteristic feature—characteristic, incidentally, of both the "superintendent" and the "architect" of perestroyka.

It is striking that in many ways both Gorbachev and Yakovlev approached the problem of developing our society in the same manner. Generally speaking, they had a lot in common... You would think that if they had proclaimed such a radical course for change, all subsequent work should have been based on an integrated blueprint, have been characterized by a considered and sound approach, and have been fundamental and systematic in character. But in practice nothing of the sort happened. There was never any integrated program for implementing perestroyka even in draft form, there were only individual brush strokes, emotions, and a succession of dashes now in one direction, now in another! Utter confusion reigned everywhere, decisions were made spontaneously, literally everything bore the mark of chaos and inconsistency. It is now clear that this was done deliberately, it was hoped to conceal the policy of destroying the Union and the existing constitutional system, and wrecking Soviet statehood. And right from the very start this policy was pursued in a clear-cut and steadfast manner. Strong stage management was perceptible here, and crushing strikes were accurately delivered against the main target.

What happened to the Soviet Union was in no way an objective inevitability, it resulted from the operation of subjective factors, that is to say, the actions and deeds of individuals. And two people—Gorbachev and Yakovlev—were the source of this destructive process. Life has already illuminated their role in the tragedy which has overtaken our people, but the whole truth has still not come out, there are still dirty secrets which they clearly still hope to keep....

This is a critical and very delicate question: It is always difficult to use data obtained via intelligence channels, because there is the real danger of revealing an important source or even endangering people. I deliberately do not wish to draw any clear-cut conclusions, I will simply describe certain facts which are known to me (and, I would observe in passing, not just to me).

Extremely alarming information pointing to Yakovlev's links with the American special services again began to come in to the KGB as from 1989. Such information was first received back in 1960. At that time Yakovlev and a group of Soviet students, which included the now-notorious O. Kalugin, were spending a year studying in the United States, at Columbia University; the FBI began showing increased interest in our students with the aim of possibly acquiring future sources of information among them or, put more simply, preparing the ground for their recruitment. Standard practice, there is nothing surprising here, particularly as the American special services have always been distinguished by extreme effrontery and have never liked to miss a chance.

It should be said that the students, far from the "all-seeing" eye of our security services, gave considerable grounds for the enemy to anticipate clear success here. Kalugin, as a KGB staffer, not only did not hinder his comrades' not very innocent pastimes, but took an active part in them himself. It is clear that he thought that all their escapades would remain unnoticed by our organs and, when he sensed that he was mistaken, he adroitly deflected the blow from himself personally by dashing off a denunciation of his friend, student Bekhterev, whose movement was restricted as a result for many years...

Yakovlev knew perfectly well that he was under the Americans' close observation and sensed what his new Americans friends were driving him toward, but he did not, for some reason, draw the correct conclusions for himself. He entered into unauthorized contact with Americans and, when we got to know about this, he made it appear that he had done so out of a desire to obtain material needed by the Soviet side from a closed library... Soon after the students finished their studies and returned home to continue (having obtained the necessary stock of knowledge) making their way up the professional ladder (apart from poor old Bekhterev, who is the sole victim in this affair).

In the seventies Yakovlev was ambassador to Canada. This was, as he himself has said, a forced stay abroad, a kind of "political exile": He was simply not wanted in Moscow. In Canada Yakovlev launched a great flurry of activity, he liked to demonstrate his nontraditional approaches, stressing his own originality and independence in every way. He maintained active links with a wide circle of people, among whom figured the then prime minister, Pierre Trudeau. Relations with the premier were trusting, which, in principle, is to the credit of any ambassador.

It was only later that we received information that the Canadians, for their part, had closely studied our ambassador and had pretty quickly come to the conclusion that Yakovlev was clearly discontented with his position and harbored a negative attitude to the Moscow authorities, and that his "opposition stance" was an altogether distinctive feature of his character. Hence the conclusion was drawn that the prospects for continuing close contacts with him were good. It should be said that the Canadians remarked, on the one hand, the usefulness of the meetings with him because their informativeness, but, on the other hand, also spoke quite disparagingly of his personal and professional qualities, noting his narrowness of vision and his characteristic of working only for himself. The Canadians did not predict a special future for Yakovlev.

We received this information, which, to be blunt, is not very flattering for Yakovlev, after 1985. I reported it directly to Gorbachev and, it has to be said, it produced a painful impression on him. Gorbachev noted that that the Canadians had correctly pinpointed Aleksandr Nikolayevich's character traits. The information I reported to Gorbachev was particularly unpleasant because, by that time, he had already firmly linked his fate with Yakovlev, and then suddenly this material appeared which gave abundant food for thought...

In 1990 the KGB obtained via the intelligence and counterintelligence services several different pieces of information (rated as reliable, moreover) regarding Yakovlev. The thrust of the reports was that, in the ssessment of the Western special services, Yakovlev was adopting stances favorable to the West, was reliably countering "conservative" forces in the Soviet Union, and could be firmly counted on in any situation. But clearly they thought in the West that Yakovlev could and should show greater determination and activeness, and therefore an American representative was instructed to hold an appropriate conversation with Yakovlev and tell him straight that more was expected of him.

Professionals well know that instructions of this kind are given to those who have already consented to work for the special services but who then, for some reasons, either avoid carrying out missions or fail to display proper activeness. Precisely this was why we regarded the information as very serious, particularly as it fitted in well with Yakovlev's line of conduct and corresponded to his practical actions. But something else was also obvious—the highest interests of the state on the one hand and Yakovlev's very close relations with Gorbachev along both official and personal lines, on the other, were coming into conflict.

It was, however, necessary to undertake something. I decided to consult with Valeriy Ivanovich Boldin, who was working at the time as head of the CPSU Central Committee General Department, was close to Gorbachev, and was clearly acutely concerned about the development of the situation in the country. We concluded that the information should be reported to Gorbachev without delay, with a proposal to conduct another very thorough check into the information received, for it was a question of the highest interests of the country's state security.

I still remember well my conversation with Gorbachev. I showed him the information—agents' reports—candidly shared my apprehensions, and emphasized the need for an urgent and thorough check.

You should have seen the state Mikhail Sergeyevich was in! He was totally confused and just could not control his feelings. Regaining his composure somewhat, he asked how reliable the information could be considered. I replied that the source that had forwarded it to us was absolutely reliable, but the subject of the information, of course, was so out of the ordinary that the whole material needed another control check. At the same time I said that there were very efficient channels and means of taking the necessary checking measures in that case and it would be possible to carry out all the work within a short time.

Gorbachev spent a long time walking up and down his office in silence. "Is it really Columbia University, really the old thing again?!" he suddenly blurted out. Some time later Mikhail Sergeyevich pulled himself together and, as always in such cases, started looking not to resolve the problem that had arisen but to think how to evade it. "Maybe he, Yakovlev, has done nothing at all for them since then," he babbled, looking me in the eyes, "for you can see yourself that they are displeased with his work and so they want him to step it up!" Seeing the entire absurdity of such arguments, he fell silent again for a long time, thinking hard about something. "Listen," he suddenly blurted out with relief, "have a direct word yourself with Yakovlev, and let's see what he will say to you about this!"

I must admit I was expecting anything but this turn of events. In preparing for that conversation I had assumed in advance that Gorbachev would be evasive, that he would not dare to make any decision, and that he would suggest, for example, waiting to see what would happen next and whether additional information would be received. But to put all this before Yakovlev himself? I tried again to resist and replied that such a thing had never happened in practice before, that we would simply alert Yakovlev and that would be the end of the matter, for we would never get to the truth. Gorbachev listened absentmindedly to my objections, and I realized that he had already made a decision. It was perfeclty obvious that if I refused to have a word with Yakovlev, Gorbachev would alert him himself.

I called on Boldin and informed him in detail of my conversation with Gorbachev. After a little thought Valeriy Ivanovich advised me not to be greatly concerned, gloomily summing up: "After all, Gorbachev will not undertake anything against Yakovlev."

I agreed with Boldin to organize on a plausible pretext a three-way meeting during which Valeriy Ivanovich would leave me alone with Yakovlev for a short time for a one-on-one conversation. That was what we did. As soon as the two of us were alone, I told Yakovlev that I had some unpleasant information, with whose substance I had decided to acquaint him. I briefly expounded the essence of the matter to Aleksandr Nikolayevich. I must say that Yakovlev seemed indifferent, was clearly perplexed, and was unable to force any words out in reply and only breathed heavily. I too was silent. We sat like that until Boldin returned, essentially not uttering a word. I realized that Yakovlev simply did not know what to say in reply, and this whole conversation, to all appearances, was a complete surprise to him. This meant, I thought, that Gorbachev had decided not to hurry events along and had not alerted his protege in advance. In this situation I could only wait for the continuation of this whole affair.

Of course, I reported to Gorbachev the conversation I had had and its special features. In reply I got that same deathly silence. A day passed, a week, a month, and still Yakovlev did not broach this subject either with me or, according to Gorbachev, with the president himself, although he communicated with him daily. I asked Mikhail Sergeyevich: What about maybe conducting the check all the same? But Gorbachev never gave the go-ahead for a check, instead advising me to have a word with Yakovlev once more. I could only obey. I drove to Yakovlev at the CPSU Central Committee (at the time he was still a Politburo member and a secretary of the CPSU Central Committee) with some comparatively small question and, in passing, inquired of Aleksandr Nikolayevich whether he had spoken to anyone, particularly M.S. Gorbachev, about our recent conversation. "It is a serious matter," I remarked, "and anything might happen." In reply I heard just the quietly uttered word: "No."

But what of the USSR president? He again fell silent when I reported to him my second conversation with Yakovlev. That was the end of the matter—Gorbachev was silent, Yakovlev was silent, but I was still hoping that the president would nonetheless change his mind sooner or later and finally allow the necessary measures to be taken...

Soon Yakovlev quit the party Central Committee apparatus and was appointed leader of a group of advisers to the president. True, for some reason unknown to me Yakovlev did not join the Security Council set up under the USSR president (although he did become a member of it after August 1991), but even in his new post, all the same, he had access to all state secrets. The relationship between Gorbachev and Yakovlev did not undergo any change and continued to be distinguished by a high degree of trust...

The "ticklish" question of Aleksandr Nikolayevich's cooperation with the U.S. special services just hung in the air, and no one—neither Yakovlev nor Gorbachev—ever again broached it in conversations with me.

After August 1991 Bakatin was appointed by Gorbachev to the post of KGB chairman. I remember how amazed I was to learn of that appointment. It was not Gorbachev's choice that I was astounded at—he did everything "correctly." I just could not understand Yeltsin's position on this question. For at that time he already held virtual power, and I am sure that Bakatin's appointment could not have happened without his consent. Did Yeltsin really not realize that, by handing over security and intelligence to "Gorbachev's men," he was depriving himself and his confederates of their most important sources of information?

Returning to the question of Yakovlev and the materials on him, I wish to say that the appointment of the caretaker Bakatin was most opportune for him. Bakatin did not hide the task he had set himself—that of smashing the state security organs. Bakatin writes with undisguised cynicism in his memoirs about this totally unprecedented situation in world history (to head in order to destroy). I do not know whether the materials on Yakovlev were destroyed in the process of this smashing or whether they passed down to the Russian security services, but in any case living witnesses were still left who, I believe, will sooner or later speak up...

Incidentally, the testimony which I gave in this connection during the investigation into the case of the State Committee for the State of Emergency was also disregarded by the RSFSR Prosecutor's Office. And yet I directly pointed out that the KGB had received information on Yakovlev, on his "contacts with representatives of a foreign power—contacts inadmissible from the viewpoint of the state's security."

I do not know whether Stepankov reported my testimony "to the top" or, if so, what instructions were issued relating to it. But Stepankov and Lisov, by virtue of their official position, familiarized themselves accurately with it—there is no doubt about this. And what happened? Did they show concern, notify the leadership, and try finally to ascertain additional details from me? Nothing of the kind!

Incidentally, that testimony of mine cited information that Ignatenko, the USSR president's press secretary, had received sizable "gifts" from foreigners. Technical control data impassively stated that Ignatenko repeatedly received large amounts of hard currency for making it possible for foreign journalists to interview the USSR president. Previously such "gifts" were always described as bribes, although now, in the age of the "flowering of freedom and democracy," a tendency has emerged to call this a manifestation of healthy business.

And so the Prosecutor's Office suddenly started to bestir itself over the Ignatenko affair. A specially appointed investigator came to see me in "Matrosskaya Tishina" [jail] and announced that the appropriate criminal proceedings had been instituted. Moreover, it had been decided to kick off the investigation, naturally, with the interrogation of myself as a witness. I had no objections and was prepared to furnish the necessary evidence, while at the same time imposing one single condition: "Since I am under arrest and have no guarantees that the Prosecutor's Office will not subsequently distort its interpretation of my testimony or twist my words, I want the interrogation to be held in the presence of my attorney Yu.P. Ivanov, who is prepared to sign a document saying he will not divulge anything." Following my statement, the investigator "vanished in a trice" and I never saw him again.

I have no idea how he conducted the investigation, or whether he actually interrogated Gorbachev first of all

(Gorbachev had even left a decision written in his own hand on the Ignatenko material reported to him at an earlier date). But all the same I can state that in relation to Ignatenko, the wheels of the Prosecutor's Office did indeed turn (albeit feebly). It is true that some of the facts linked with Ignatenko were "leaked" to the press, quite deliberately moreover. We merely have to ask why.

Aleksandr Nikolayevich Yakovlev was quite a different matter! In this case, where you would think far greater zeal should have been displayed (he was after all a former member of the Politburo and the Presidential Council, and, finally, the leader of the president's group of consultants), unseen forces of some kind had tightly bound the hands of the investigation!

When speaking about the "architect" of perestroyka, it is also not superfluous to recall how he conducted himself in August 1991. Aleksandr Nikolayevich only showed his face after we had been arrested, but right away he made a prophetic prediction from the balcony of the White House that "every kind of 'rabble' would try to latch onto the victory of the democrats." Well, where on earth was he on 19 and 20 August? There is no information about this in the "SCSE case." One other detail—thousands of witnesses were questioned, but Yakovlev was never once summoned to the Prosecutor's Office.

He popped up just once in evidence submitted by Laptev, former chairman of a USSR Supreme Soviet chamber and a major democrat, who after the collapse of the USSR glided gently into the job of one of the directors of the IZVESTIYA concern. Laptev relates how he had a telephone conversation with Yakovlev during the morning of 19 August. Yakovlev, it turns out, knew that the first rally of the "democrats" against the introduction of the state of emergency was scheduled to be held near the Moscow City Soviet building. "There could be seizures and arrests," Yakovlev reasoned. "But if this rally is not dispersed, this SCSE and its actions will be futile and there will be nothing to fear..." Of course, the actual participants in this conversation did not attend the rally.

This episode is revealing as far as Yakovlev is concerned. He always keeps to the line where his personal safety begins, and he never crosses this line. So when there is no personal danger involved, he can strike a fearless pose. Let me illustrate this claim with one example.

More than a year has passed since I was arrested. And all of a sudden I hear that during the submission of evidence on the "SCSE case" in the Constitutional Court courtroom, Yakovlev is stating that the KGB was making preparations to have him killed in a car crash. He was allegedly warned about the prepared attempt on his life by a general, whereupon Aleksandr Nikolayevich apparently threw down a decisive challenge to me: "Bear in mind, Kryuchkov, I have written letters, and if I am killed you will be unmasked!"

What an astonishing, unpardonable lie! Of course, we never had such a conversation, just as, needless to say, no attempt on his life was ever prepared. But perhaps there really was some general who deliberately misled the not overly courageous Aleksandr Nikolayevich? However, even this is hard to believe. What prevented Yakovlev from making this "fact" public at the time, while I was still KGB chairman? From reporting it to the president, to whom he was bound by such warm relations, or to the Supreme Soviet? Why did he not tell journalists? Why, finally, did he not say anything about this in August 1991, and not a whole year later?

I reacted to this slander in the only way that someone in my position could do—I demanded that the general prosecutor hold an official inquiry into the relevant public announcement and charge me with organizing the attempted murder of Yakovlev. It would not have been difficult to conduct an investigation into this case: Not much time has elapsed, and the staffers from the USSR KGB apparatus through whom "I intended to execute the attempt" would certainly still be alive. The informant general could boldly be named, and what is more recommended for an award—after all he had saved the life of the "father of democracy"! In passing, by the way, I asked the Prosecutor's Office to charge me again and investigate the other garbage about me which a MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI correspondent had started to put about—apparently several years ago I also prepared a terrorist act against Yeltsin. He was to have been assassinated in Tajikistan, moreover, and my accomplice in the affair was even named—the director of the republic's security organs.

But the current Prosecutor's Office is in no hurry to expose the lies told by slanderers if the latter are "democrats." Ordinary investigators could only throw up their hands in amazement when they read these slanderous reports, but their superiors simply preferred not to react to my statements...

I had just thought how best to finish my story when fresh newspapers were brought to me. In them I read of Yeltsin's decision to appoint A.N. Yakovlev chairman of the State Commission for Rehabilitation. The security minister and the minister of internal affairs are also on this commission. What sort of investigation can this be! The "architect of perestroyka" is continuing his work....

Grachev Comments on Army Situation

LD2802121093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0755 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Interview with Defense Minister Pavel Grachev by Russian Television correspondent Tarasov in Moscow; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Tarasov] Pavel Sergeyevich, the Russian Army has been in existence for nine months. In your opinion, what has worked and what has not?

[Grachev] I will begin with the shortcomings. Unfortunately, there is a category of people who have recently been heaping all the misfortunes and shortcomings of the

Army on the new defense minister and on the new leadership of the Defense Ministry, even though the Russian Army and Defense Ministry are only nine months old. Could you create, for example, even a motor-rifle division in just nine months?

All the misfortunes are the consequences of the work of our predecessors, both military and political leaders. The Army was basically forgotten about, particularly over the past five or six years, and stewed in its own juices, when attacks were made on this army from all sides, and it was considered that the Army, and people in uniform, were useless spongers completely incapable of doing the country any good. But at last the people, not the people but the leadership, has developed a close interest in the Army, both the president and the Supreme Soviet and the government, and after that we began work. When you feel you are being helped and supported, even work becomes easy. Of course there are many shortcomings, and I do not deny that there are seriously underdeveloped areas in our work at the new ministry of defense. We are trying, but perhaps there is not quite enough experience. There are shortcomings elsewhere, in the area of financial support and the attitude of local armed forces administrative leaders, there are shortcomings. Of course, in my opinion, the most complex points at the moment are understaffing. Despite all our efforts there is so far no improvement in conscription of young people for army service; that's the first thing. [passage omitted]

As for the second thing: Mass withdrawal of troops from both distant foreign countries [dalneye zarubezhye] and from what we now call nearby foreign countries [blizhneye zarubezhye]. This has a negative affect on the present state of troops. We are simply physically unable to satisfy the needs of all the families of officers and warrant officers and provide apartments for them, although we are trying to find any means we can, budget and non-budget means, trying to earn money by selling excess property and equipment. We can attract various joint ventures and foreign firms to build accommodation, but this is not enough. This is not enough because in the history of the Soviet and Russian Armies there has never been such a precedent whereby, for example, thousands of families would arrive on Russian territory every day. Never before, even in the history of the former Soviet Army, has there been a case when, for example, an okrug would provide apartments for 10-12,000 families in one year. As a rule, in the past this figure was between 2-2,500. [passage omitted]

The next point is interethnic conflict. Of course, once again the Russian Army is not at fault, but the Russian Army, and people with epaulettes, cannot stand apart from these conflicts. Instead of reforming ourselves or setting up new formations and units and training for combat, unfortunately we have to fulfill functions which are unnatural to us. Nonetheless, I tell you now that when I became defense minister I said decisively, and I will continue to say it openly while I remain defense minister, that I will not permit the incidents that occurred previously and were permitted—I am talking about drawing the armed forces into a war against their own people. It happened; everybody keeps quiet about it. Unfortunately, those who sent troops to suppress the people in Vilnius, Tbilisi, Sumgait, and Nagorno-Karabakh are represented almost as heroes, and there is a particular tendency, particular people, who even call on them to replace the Defense Ministry.

Well, the next point, of course, as if that were not enough, is what sort of legacy we have inherited. Any right-thinking person—let alone a military man—realizes that we took over an army that was practically ungovernable, the army of the second strategic echelon of the former Army of the Soviet Union, in which, apart from the miniature flags on the map, there were not even any combat sub- units. We had, as a matter of urgency, to restore the administration and all types of combat and other support and recruit on the basis of the okrugs in Russia, something more or less like combat units—though the choice was small. At present, I believe that—though, I repeat, we have only had nine months—the okrugs are now performance-capable and battle-ready; and if, God forbid, some conflict should happen, though the political situation is such that we don't foresee any such conflict, they are ready to do their job—their main task being to defend our homeland from attack from outside. [passage omitted]

The next thing is servicemen's allowances—in other words, social protection in this sphere. There have been reproaches toward the ministry as though they are not concerned about people. Well, I can tell you frankly that throughout 1992 we increased servicemen's allowances sevenfold. In these first months of 1993, (?as far as we are aware), the Defense Ministry's leadership has achieved an increase in servicemen's pay straight off of 2.7 times. Why is this not mentioned and apparently gone unnoticed? What have we been able to do? First, we have carried out a complete inventory of the armed forces and now we have a very good idea of what we have inherited. Based on what we have, we have elaborated tactical and operational performance plans of the Russian armed forces. That's the first thing.

Second, we have begun reorganization of the districts. In what respect? Well, first, in the matter of the fulfillment of the decisions of the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies and the Law on Defense, which was adopted by the Supreme Soviet and signed by the president—this was the reduction of the Army to one percent of the size of the population. Again, we are reducing not by way of a wholesale discharge of a large number of officers—and we had an example where 340,000 officers were discharged in one unit—no, we have taken quite a different path. First and foremost, we are discharging those who have completed their fixed term of service. Second, we are discharging those who have served 20 years or more, but with all the benefits which servicemen discharged after 25 years of service have or who are due to have. Third, of course, we are discharging officers who have not adapted to the new situation.

[Tarasov] Pavel Sergeyevich, forgive me, there is one question here which needs elaborating. Do you consider that this process of reduction, this process of discharge, is under the rigid or precise control of the Defense Ministry, or is there a negative side here, because there has been a great deal in the press on this question?

[Grachev] I realize that this fact of reduction is being used by certain politicians in order, essentially, to malign the defense minister and the new Defense Ministry and to stir up officers to some extent, although officers rightly understand that they won't succeed in this, and I must say that the reduction process is well under control, and is going according to plan.

For example, the statements that the defense minister sacked 30,000 young right-minded and progressively thinking young officers are a bluff, they are nonsense; it is an insult, an insult of the lowest kind to the defense minister. This did not happen and never will. If young officers are retired, it is only of their own will. [passage omitted]

[Tarasov] It's a complicated situation—attacks from right and left, the minister is to blame, the minister isn't the right man. Don't you get tempted to give up in this situation? What's it all for?

[Grachev] [laughs] Yes, there are attacks both from left and right, and you know, I do not mind these attacks. It would be worse if there were no attacks. It would mean I suit everybody and that I am subordinating myself to somebody, without my own firm position or my own lines for building the Armed Forces, without my own firm line on reforming the Armed Forces and the general organization of the duties with which the Armed Forces are entrusted. Of course, I hold a centrist position. I announced this when I became defense minister, I reaffirmed it in my speech at the Seventh Congress, and naturally nobody likes a position like that. Both leftists and rightists like a position that says where the Army is going. But I keep repeating that the Army is not going anywhere, it will go down the middle, it will go with the people, and depending on what political confrontation there will be, it will under any circumstances carry out its duties to defend its fatherland.

Yeltsin Edict on Arms Delivery Embargos

PM2602120593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 24 Feb 93 p 3

[Edict No. 235 of the Russian Federation President "On the procedure for introducing embargos on the delivery of arms and military equipment, the offering of services of a military-technical nature, and the delivery of raw or other materials or equipment or the transfer of military or dual-purpose technologies to foreign states, including member states of the CIS," signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin and dated Moscow, The Kremlin, 18 February 1993; followed by "Statute ('Ratified by Edict no. 235 of the Russian Federation President of 18 February, 1993') on the procedure for introducing embargos on the delivery of arms and military equipment, the offering of services of a military-technical nature, and the delivery of raw or other materials or equipment or the transfer of military or dual-purpose technologies to foreign states, including member states of the CIS"]

[Text] With the aim of ensuring the fulfillment of the corresponding decisions of the UN Security Council, and of protecting the Russian Federation's national interests, I decree:

1. To ratify the Statute (here appended) on the Procedure for Introducing Embargos on the Delivery of Arms and Military Equipment, the Offering of Services of A Military Technical Character, and the Delivery of Raw or Other Materials or Equipment or the Transfer of Military or Dual-Purpose Technologies to Foreign States, Including Member States of the CIS.

2. That the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice, together with the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Russian Federation Ministry of Security, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs, is to draw up within a period of three months proposals on the legislative regulation of questions connected with the introduction of embargos in the sphere of military-technical cooperation with foreign countries and on criminal and administrative liability for violation of such embargos, and to submit these proposals according to established procedure to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

3. The present decree comes into force from the moment of its publication.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

[Dated] Moscow, The Kremlin, 18 February 1993

Statute (Ratified by Edict No. 235 of the Russian Federation President of 18 February 1993) on the Procedure for Introducing Embargos on the Delivery of Arms and Military Equipment or the Offering of Services of A Military-Technical Nature, and the Delivery of Raw or Other Materials or Equipment or the Transfer of Military or Dual-Purpose Technologies to Foreign States, Including Member States of the CIS [Subtitle

The present statute defines the procedure for introducing in the the Russian Federation an embargo on the delivery of arms and military equipment, the offering of services of a military-technical nature—including secondment of Russian specialists and the training of foreign citizens—and on the delivery of raw materials or equipment or the transfer of military or dual-purpose technologies to foreign states, including member states of the CIS.

1. The Russian Federation's position, by which it is to be guided in UN voting on the introduction of embargos, is to be coordinated in advance with the relevant Russian

Federation ministries and departments and, if necessary, submitted for discussion by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

In the event of the adoption of a relevant decision by the UN Security Council, the Russian Federation president is to examine, on submission by the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government, proposals drawn up by the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and is to make a decision on the introduction of an embargo on the delivery of arms and military equipment, the offering of aid of a military-technical nature, and on the delivery of raw or other materials and equipment and the transfer of military or dual-purpose technologies to foreign states, including member states of the CIS.

2. The Russian Federation president is to examine, on submission by the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government, any proposals being drawn up by the Interdepartmental Commission for the Russian Federation's Military-Technical Cooperation With Foreign Countries and the Russian Federation Government Commission for Export Control, and make a decision, on the basis of the interests of the Russian Federation, on the introduction of an embargo on carrying out military-technical cooperation with foreign states, including member states of the CIS, and on the delivery to such countries of raw and other materials, equipment, or military or dual-purpose technologies.

3. Practical implementation of the Russian Federation president's decisions is assigned to the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the Russian Federation Ministry of Security, the Russian Federation State Customs Committee, the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense, the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, the Russian Federation Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry, the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Russian Federation Foreign Intelligence Service, which are to implement the necessary measures immediately following the Russian Federation president's decision to introduce an embargo.

These measures include ceasing and preventing deliveries of arms and military equipment from the Russian Federation to states which are subject to an embargo on military cooperation, as well as ceasing the provision of services of a military-technical nature, the deliveries of raw and other materials and equipment, the transfer of military or dual-purpose technologies, and the granting of licences to participants in foreign economic activity in this sphere, and suspending the operation of relevant intergovernmental agreements and contracts.

The Intergovernmental Commission for the Russian Federation's Cooperation with Foreign Countries is charged with monitoring compliance with sanctions that are adopted.

4. The Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and the Russian Federation Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry, in coordination with the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government, are to submit proposals for implementing embargos on military-technical cooperation. These proposals are to provide for compensation for expenses incurred by Russian Federation enterprises and organizations owing to the suspension of the operation of relevant intergovernmental agreements and of contracts concluded with the aim of implementing these agreements with states which are subject to an embargo.

These proposals are also to define the possibility of selling to third countries military output manufactured but not delivered to countries which are subject to an embargo.

More on Announcement on Increased Arms Exports

LD2702211893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1950 GMT 27 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow February 27 TASS—Radical changes in the approaches to arms exports will enable Russia increase exports volume in the near future and successfully compete with leading western firms, head of the Russian Committee for Defence Industries Viktor Glukhikh told a briefing here today.

He said the latest achievements in aviation and rocket building will be presented at Mosaeroshow in Moscow and Zhukovskiy in late August-early September, 1993.

Over the past years Russia has lost materiel sales markets, he said. Arms delivery to ex-Warsaw Treaty members, Libya and Iraq were stopped. The vacuum was filled in by western firms, which sometimes acted in evasion of U.N. resolutions, which embargoes arms trade with a number of states.

Russian enterprises can independently overcome current difficulties, stressed Glukhikh. At the same time, they are ready for cooperation with western firms. In his words, they have such an experience of work with German companies in the optics and with French firms in aviation machinery.

TV Crew Visits, Films 'Secret' Virological Center

PM2602144793 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 17 Feb 93

[From the "You'll Never Get This" program: Report over video entitled "The Fifth Circle—Devil's Kitchen" from a secret virological center near Moscow]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Unidentified female correspondent over video of virological establishment perimeter fence, guard dog, gate guarded by soldiers] Task No.

1 [in the event of a biological warfare attack] was to protect the troops. These problems have always constituted a state secret. Information pertaining to this subject is top secret in any country. Try to visit a similar establishment in the United States, Britain, or Israel. You will not even get close to it. That is quite understandable.

Less than a year ago our journalists failed to gain access to one of the most secret virological centers in Moscow Oblast. Only now, and only after a lot of effort, were we allowed to visit, and not just to visit but also to shoot. Exclusively for our program. We were shown everything except the laboratories where people are working with pathogenic organisms which cause infectious diseases. This is a safety measure, we were told; there are no vaccines.

The institute's estate is a territory within a territory. The reason is the same as the one just given, I believe. The institute's very title—"Virological Center"—breathes secrecy and danger.

So what secrets are kept behind these fences? We wanted to look into every nook and corner. We constantly had the impression they were trying to hide something from us. The buildings are old, and the equipment is not exactly new either. But, like everywhere else in our country, people are working and are even managing to make discoveries. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent over video of man in protective clothing] This man must know more than the others. He is wearing a protective suit, working in a closed laboratory, and taking a decontamination shower. [Video shows man emerging from shower.]

[Correspondent addressing him] Have you ever handled biological weapons?

[Unidentified man] Personally, no.

[Correspondent] And the institute as such?

[Unidentified man] I do not know.

[Correspondent over video of laboratory scenes] So who does know? After all, there is no smoke without a fire.

Take waste disposal, for example. It is rigorously monitored. Used water is subjected to purification processes, involving various substances and high temperatures before the water is discharged into the sewage system. Everything else is disinfected and subjected to high temperatures in autoclaves or incinerated. What you see coming out of the chimney is not smoke but steam at a temperature of 150 degrees.

But the thought persists: Where is that for which we are looking?

[Correspondent addressing uniformed official] I am aware that you have not thrown the door wide open to us, but have allowed us to see only through a crack. Nonetheless, where is the truth?

[A.A. Makhlay, director of the virological center] We had information that, back in the thirties, an extensive program for the development and even the production of biological weapons had been adopted in Japan. In 1941 the United States drew up such a program. Later Britain also followed suit. They too had such a program. After the war we knew this; naturally, we had information to this effect, but in view of the situation prevailing after the war, no one was in a position to do anything about this. We simply could not, for understandable reasons. We did not respond until the early fifties.

[Correspondent] What, specifically, were you working on?

[Makhlay] We worked on the development of experimental samples, we were testing experimental samples.

[Correspondent] Experimental samples of what?

[Makhlay] Of cocktails, of biological cocktails [retseptura].

[Correspondent] What cocktails?

[Makhlay] We worked on... you want to know with which specific pathogens we were working?

[Correspondent] Yes, yes, yes.

[Makhlay] We were working with exanthematous fever [sypnoy tif] agents, we were working with agents of Venezuelan encephalomyelitis of horses, and some other arboviruses.

[Correspondent over video of dilapidated building, sign in Russian reading To the Shelter] This is where biological weapons were worked on. In this very building. This is where the former top secret laboratories were located. Entry was strictly restricted. This is what remains. A crew from the Ministry of Defense came and reduced everything to smithereens in true Russian style, including expensive, sophisticated instruments, equipment, and refrigeration chambers.

Meanwhile the rich Americans have destroyed nothing, pleading lack of money. Their laboratories have been mothballed. But prophylactic work is periodically carried out. Everything is kept in working order.

[N.T. Vasilyev, head of the Russian Defense Ministry Biological Defense Directorate] We only had experimental samples of cocktails which were tested in laboratory and field conditions. Individual lines were set up, which could have been used in wartime for the production of these specific cocktails. However, no biological weapons were produced or stockpiled in our country. We had no biological weapons. Individual studies were carried out in this sphere, and if there had been a government decision, a special decision, then prior to 1985 this task could have been carried out, given additional effort.

Zhirinovskiy Backs Referendum, Says People To Vote No Confidence

MK2702090293 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Feb 93 p 2

[Indira Dunayeva report: "Liberal Democratic Party Against Vodka?"]

[Text] The Liberal Democratic Party has held a press conference in which its leader, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, said that he approves of the holding of any referendum, because "after all, every literate person can cross out all the questions about the principles of the Constitution."

Zhirinovskiy suggests that the referendum should be about confidence in the president and parliament. In his opinion, the people will definitely say "no." Presidential elections will then have to be held in December 1993 and only after that parliamentary elections in March 1994. The ruling authority should have a single team and parliament should be elected to suit an already elected president.

He criticized the incumbent rulers for beginning to learn while already in power. After his political statements Zhirinovskiy protested to the French Embassy over the low quality of the "Boris Yeltsin" vodka that is produced in France. He suggested there should be a "Mitterrand" and a "Clinton" vodka.

Zhirinovskiy Briefs Press; Saddam's Son Said To Visit

MK2602140293 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 26 Feb 93 p 1

[Vladimir Nazarov article: "There Will Not Be a Circumcision"]

[Text] What fine brutes crowded the lobby of the Journalists House yesterday! Dark blue uniforms, army boots, empty holsters, pimply cheeks.... "They are Zhirinovskiy's wonder warriors," someone whispered to me. Members of the Zhirinovskiy youth league, as it were.

Vladimir Volfovich opened yet another press conference by giving the journalists a mild dressing-down. He then proceeded to pontificate. Naturally, what he said does not lend itself to being repeated, but I can perhaps outline the subjects. The first was a forecast of a general war in Central Asia, which will be to the advantage of Russia. Zhirinovskiy reminded us that the only reason why the Bosporus and Dardanelles do not constitute a Russian Constantinople Oblast is that it was an oversight. He also said that 40 million people would vote for him in the coming presidential elections.

KURANTY has already reported that, according to sources close to Liberal Democratic Party leaders, Saddam Husayn's son is planning to pay Zhirinovskiy a visit. The reason? Saddam Husayn's son and Vladimir Volfovich have resolved to swap faiths as a mark of their eternal and indissoluble friendship: The host will adopt Islam, and his guest Judaism. I quickly imagined a television program showing the Liberal Democratic Party leader courageously enduring a circumcision.

However, there will be no circumcision: Both men had it done when they adopted the faiths of their fathers and grandfathers.

Supreme Soviet

26 Feb Parliament Session Discusses State Budget

Finance Minister Details Budget

LD2602175093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1214 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow February 26 TASS—The total budget deficit will amount to 3.7-3.8 trillion roubles in Russia in 1993, which is a little more than eight per cent of the gross national product (GNP), Russian Finance Minister Vasiliy Barchuk said today. He spoke at a joint session of the two chambers of parliament, which began the discussion after first reading of the draft law on Russia's budget system for 1993.

Barchuk said that the inflation rate in December, January and February forced them to reconsider all economic and financial indicators which had been set in January.

A total volume of expenditures of the federal budget is planned to be increased by 2.8 trillion roubles, which makes 20 per cent. Budget revenues are planned to be increased by 1.3 trillion roubles. Thus, the federal budget deficit has been increased by 1.5 trillion roubles.

Additional expenditures are planned to be channeled, primarily, to subsidies for the coal industry (1.35 trillion roubles) and the development of science and higher education—231 billion roubles).

Allocations to the investment sphere will go up by 108 billion roubles, including those for the military-industrial complex—by 32.7 billion.

Indices on foreign economic activities and the volume of the rouble support for the foreign trade turnover in accordance with the 560 roubles per dollar exchange rate were specified. As a result of it, revenues coming from foreign economic activities were increased by 962 billion roubles and expenditures—by 1.302 trillion roubles. Expenditures on credit operations in connection with a lower exchange rate of the national currency were increased by 368 billion roubles.

Barchuk submitted for the consideration of parliament the government proposal on imposing new taxes in 1993. In order to resolve the problem of food supply for the population, it was suggested that a special-purpose tax for the support of the agro-industrial complex be imposed, which will amount to 3 per cent of the value of marketed agricultural produce.

So far as the fuel and energy complex is concerned, the finance minister suggested that additional charges for the use of energy, including nuclear energy, amounting to 20 per cent be prolonged.

It was suggested as well that a list of goods liable to excise duty should be made much longer. These include luxury goods which are subject to additional taxation.

In the opinion of Barchuk, the government will be forced "to make a more thorough inventory of privileges on import and export duties" for the purpose of reducing the number of those to whom those privileges extend, which makes about 90 per cent of Russian enterprises.

The government finds it necessary to introduce a so-called "emergency hard-currency tax on all import operations, including barter". The money obtained in this way will be spent on paying Russia's foreign debt.

The government asked the parliament to fix the volume of the federal budget deficit for the first quarter of 1993, so that the Central Bank will grant a 1.5-trillion-rouble credit. Without credit resources the government actually stopped financing capital investments, cannot make payments on subventions and subsidies to regional budgets and has stopped the financing of military expenditures in the sphere of capital investments and arms purchases.

Barchuk appealed to people's deputies to approve the draft budget, "perhaps even today", because "various branch, parliamentary and territorial lobbying groups are now trying to breach the budget which has not yet been approved." The finance minister admitted that the draft budget is not reflecting to the full the inflation rate and would be specified until April.

Barchuk Answers Questions

LD2702050193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2040 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Address followed by question and answer with delegates by Finance Minister Vasiliy Barchuk to the Supreme Soviet in Moscow on 26 Feb; from the "At the Russian Supreme Soviet" program—recorded]

[Text] [Barchuk] Esteemed chairman, esteemed People's Deputies! The finalized draft budget system for 1993 submitted to you earlier has for nearly a month been examined in detail by the Supreme Soviet's committees and commissions jointly with representatives of the government, the Ministries of Finance and Economics, and other ministries and departments. As always, the committees and commissions—and this is virtually the third time that we have done the budget—have made their proposals, and unfortunately I have to say that they entailed only increasing expenditures. There were virtually no proposals on increasing income.

The sum total of the committees' and commissions' proposals for extra expenditure is put at 7.7 trillion rubles [sem I sem desyatykh trilliona rubley]. This equates to virtually 50 percent of the total expenditure in the finalized federal budget submitted earlier by the government. But bearing in mind the lack of any proposals regarding actually increasing income, the federal budget deficit will in this case triple. This kind of approach would, of course, kill off recent slight hopes for financial stabilization. As you are well aware, such a deficit would entail vast amounts of money being pumped into the economy without any kind of goods to back them up. This would cause an unprecedented shortage of goods and a sharp increase in the rate of inflation. Realizing this, the committees and commissions of the Supreme Soviet, jointly with the government, ministries, and government departments, have identified the most vulnerable and critical areas of the economy that are most in need of state support in its current form. The outcome of this coordinated work is that the sum total of expenditure in the federal budget has gone up by 2.8 trillion rubles [R], that is by 20 percent, and budget incomes have been finalized as going up by R1.3 trillion. So, the federal budget deficit is bigger by R1.5 trillion. Where is the additional expenditure going? First and foremost, R1.135 trillion is going to subsidize the mining industry, which will make it possible to implement the tariff agreements that have been concluded. Incidentally, the finalized budget as submitted to you earmarks an extra R940 billion for this alone. It earmarks an extra R195 billion for investment in housing. As you will recall, the finalized budget that the government submitted to you earlier envisaged a total of R356 billion in subsidies to the mining industry. An extra R231 billion is to go to developing science and higher education; it was R469 billion, so it's been nearly doubled. This money will go to improving the logistic support for people working in this field, improving the supply of equipment and finance. Also, jointly with the appropriate Supreme Soviet committee, it is proposed to reform the country's science and higher education. The proposal concerns the way that science academies, universities, and colleges are managed.

Investment is going up by R108 billion, including 32.7 billion on the agro-industrial complex. The figures have been finalized in accordance with the Supreme Soviet resolution. Those for foreign trade have also been finalized. Instead of the final balance given in the draft budget submitted by the government, a detailed breakdown is given of income and expenditure of income in the form of export and import duties and other revenues and spending on servicing the external debt and costs of non-trade operations and other expenditures linked to foreign trade. In addition, the amount of rubles involved in foreign-trade turnover and the ruble exchange to the U.S. dollar in late January and early February, ie. 561:1, has been finalized. The rate in the previous budget was about 400 to the dollar. As a result, incomes from foreign trade have been increased by R962 billion rubles and expenditures by R1.302 trillion. After recalculation based on this weaker ruble rate, the results of credit operations have also been increased by R368 billion rubles.

[Unidentified deputy] Esteemed colleagues! First, I'm amazed by the absence of Fedorov, who handles the financial issues. I have several questions. I'll try to keep this brief, although there are many questions and they're not easy. First: What is the situation regarding the money supply? This is directly linked to the issue in hand, because in general it's considered criminal to emit money not backed up by goods. Also, what is the situation regarding inflation-proofing of the public's savings? This in effect is robbery of the people. Second question: What is the situation regarding tax collection? You say that things are bad on the income side, so this is the natural question. And in particular, I'd like to draw attention to tax collection from private-sector trading businesses and the street stalls that have so multiplied under the president's decrees. And my third question. Let me cite three figures from your budget message. Financing the economy: R3.265 trillion rubles. Defense: 3.092 trillion. Spending on servicing the external debt: 1.764 trillion. That's 54 percent of spending on the entire economy. So my question is this: Are we still a military power? If the Army is operating normally then I've missed something. Are we becoming just a colony, because our spending on servicing the external debt is over half of the spending on the entire economy?

[Barchuk] Thank you. Well, regarding the money supply, there are representatives of the bank here and they're better qualified to answer that. As far as inflation-proofing of savings accounts is concerned, the chairman of the government, Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin, spoke about this about a month ago. He was talking about raising interest rates for these accounts. These rates have now been raised, so at issue was not inflation-proofing of savings but of achieving that effect via increased interest rates.

[Deputy Dobzhinskiy] Esteemed Vasiliy Vasilyevich! You were complaining of the lack of proposals aimed at increasing in real terms the income side of the budget. Let me remind you that there was such a proposal. The Supreme Soviet ordered that the income side of the budget should include incomes or revenues from private-sector use of state property by businesses and establishments. I can see that there is a clause on this, but there are no figures given. My first question is why aren't there any figures in this clause, and how could we approximately assess them?

[Barchuk] Some of the income is from state property, from enterprises that have been privatized and transformed into joint stock companies. There is some from state property. Indeed, we cannot as yet specify this sum. It has been put by us at somewhere around just 25 billion, and we are specifically directing it to a fund to support small- and medium-size business. If you have seen the budget, this 25 billion is already included. Indeed, we now quite simply need to make an inventory to show what the state owns in these enterprises that have been privatized and transformed into joint stock companies. As this is clarified, we shall definitely be making a clarification to the budget revenue.

Pochinok Speaks on State Budget

LD2702113393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2040 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Speech by Aleksandr Petrovich Pochinok, chairman of the Budget, Plans, Taxation and Prices Commission at a 26 February session of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet held in Moscow; from the "At the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Session" program—recorded]

[Text] The committees and commissions of the Supreme Soviet considered the budget message to the Supreme Soviet from the president of the Russian Federation, the government's clarifications with regard to the forecast of socioeconomic development, and the performance indicators for the Russian Federation's budgetary system, and the report on the 1991 state budget. It is proposed that a final conclusion be adopted reflecting the following main points of the discussion.

During discussion the budget message underwent considerable changes. It now differs in a cardinal way from the version that was submitted in November. A large number of suggestions from national, state and administrative territorial structures, the standing commissions of the chambers of the Supreme Soviet, and people's deputies were taken into account. The draft law submitted for your consideration during its first reading has become more realistic and now reflects better the requirements for financing the national economy and the social sphere. It can be recommended for adoption in its first reading by the Supreme Soviet.

At the same time a large number of shortcomings have not been removed. This will require very serious work by the government in the preparation of the law for its consideration and adoption in its final, second reading. The slump in production continued in 1992. It was on a very big, if not catastrophic, scale. A general slump in production occurred in most sectors, especially those sectors producing consumer goods. In this connection there was a sharp reduction in the population's real income level, and the population's savings lost their value and were practically nullified. The State Committee of Statistics estimates that the real content of the average per capita income was only 60 percent of its 1991 level.

Success was not achieved in solving the problem of stabilizing the financial situation in the national economy. The consolidated budget was implemented with a deficit of 642 billion rubles [R]. The deficit in the Russian Federation's republican budget was R958 billion. In the budgets for the territories income exceeded expenditure by R 316 billion. This includes—and this is probably of some interest—the fact that for Tatarstan income exceeds outgoings by 22.4 million, Bashkortostan by 36.6 million, Krasnoyarsk kray by 12.3 million, Kemerovo oblast by 11.8 million. To cover the budget deficit nearly R 2 trillin in credit have been drawn from the Russian Central Bank. This has considerably increased the state debt. Future limits on Central

Bank credits to the Finance Ministry should be endorsed by way of simultaneous adoption of the budget and confirmation of the sum of the state debt. Indicatively, the government has now made proposals to this effect.

It is high time to end the wrongful practice of considering credits separately from the budget deficit and thinking that they are not part of the state debt. This is self-deception and self-consolation. We console ourselves by pretending that our deficit is extremely small. It is no accident that the very man who says that the Supreme Soviet is stoking inflation and pumping out money is now asking for an extra R 5 trillion in credit for the Russian Finance Ministry to cover the budget deficit. Yes, this credit is essential. Essential, in order to adequately finance the economy. But everything must be included into the budget. Spending on servicing credits must be fully included into the budget. Upper limits on credits should be confirmed at the same time. We should fully understand that a country that is in dire financial health and in which output is falling sharply cannot have a favorable budget.

It has to be said that unfortunately the concept, propounded in early 1992, of the government fighting inflation has collapsed. The concept was based on the premise that cutting back the money supply will lead to stabilization of prices, a halt to inflation and an improvement in the country's financial situation. True, inflation was more or less halted. But at the price of pushing all of industry and the entire economy also to the verge of standstill. It has to be understood—and the experience of 1992 showed this—that the reason for inflation lies in the way that our country's economy is structured in the existence of a vast number of monopolies. There are virtually no demonopolized sectors of the economy in this country. In such conditions, restrictions on the volume of credits led—as borne out by the experience of 1992—to the reverse of what was desired: Incomes and outgoings in the budget began to diverge. The budget, if I can use this image, split in opposite directions. And if we now try to reinstate a tight squeeze on the amount of money in circulation we will end up with only one thing by the end of the year: Incredible, huge price increases, industry at a standstill, and a yet wider gulf between incomes and outgoings in the state budget.

Only by combining a really tough credit and finance policy with the provision of incentives for priority industries and of working capital tied to appropriate contracts for enterprises, unfailingly combined, of course, with guarantees for state property, for the state—only this, alongside control of the inflation rate, will enable the fall in the volume of output somehow to be stabilized and a start to be made on increasing it. Without increasing the volume of output and the volume of purchasing of goods, there is no point in thinking of beating inflation. No country has ever been able to beat inflation without making provision for either production or for a developed trade network on its territory. We are doing neither. Instead, we attempt, if you will pardon the expression, to crush our economy with tough measures.

Enormous budget losses have ensued in the sphere of foreign economic activity. The volume of concessions offered for foreign economic activity is comparable with the budget deficit. Many of these concessions are clearly not used for the purpose that was intended. The state is being robbed in a massive and unconcealed manner. It is worth looking at the results of the lifting of the state monopoly on foreign trade. It did not have a single positive result. There has merely been a colossal loss of the state's foreign currency revenue, something which has also made the budget deficit worse. There are large budget losses in the retail trade system. A large amount of unaccounted-for cash is concentrated there. The turnover rate is fairly high. Hundreds of thousands of millions of rubles are escaping taxation.

The abolition of state monopoly on the production and sale of liqueurs and spirits evidently has also increased the budget deficit. Clear and strict legislative decisions and actions by executive power are necessary here.

Discussing the budget for 1993, with the exception of those already mentioned, more potential revenue sources of the budget should also be considered. I would like to speak about them in more detail.

The revenues of the budget system in 1993 will continue to be formed from the sources which already worked in 1992. As before, profit will provide more than a quarter of the budget revenue. Twenty-eight percent—the value-added tax. Slightly less—7.5 percent—the share of excises, the fund of price regulation and revenues from foreign economic activity. The total volume of revenues in the republic's budget, which has been proposed, is R10.808 billion, and it should be taken into account that the revenues from foreign credits to the Russian Federation amounting to R1.288 billion should be used to partially liquidate the budget deficit.

If before our budget system was like a pyramid, the foundation of which was made of a reliable tax basis and a large number of installations which were reliable sources of revenue, and expenditure was either less or slightly exceeded the revenues, now our system has turned into a kind of mushroom, where the remaining revenue sources are a very thin stem, and the whole sphere still financed by the state is the big, overgrown cap. If we fail to stimulate volumes of production now, if we fail to stimulate an increase in revenues, if we fail to stimulate revenues from manufacturers, the stem of this mushroom might break.

Debate 'Heated'

LD2602183793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1508 GMT 26 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow February 26 TASS—Today's parliamentary discussion of the draft law "on the Russian budget system in 1993" is heated as it was expected, as some deputies call for repeated rejection of the draft.

Deputy Mikhail Zakharov recalled several weeks ago the parliament listened to a draft law on budget system and refused the adopt the document in the first reading. Since that time, little has changed in the draft, he said.

"We have done a useless job: our remarks and proposals were not taken into account," he said.

Other deputies were not so categoric, but their speeches also criticized the government. Deputy Aleksey Chernyshev said the government is holding a ruinous agrarian policy. He offered to give the priority to the following areas in countryside financing: capital investments, social sphere and cattle breeding.

Deputy Petr Karpov said "the financial system is breaking into pieces". He voiced an opinion the draft law "must have more readings than two, since the situation has run out of control. We should open our eyes and understand today's budget is an illusion."

Some deputies expressed disagreement with the way the government intends to finance social-cultural arrangements, offering, in particular, to transfer part of money from other budget articles to the sphere of culture and social sphere.

Critical mood of deputies seems to be aggravated by the fact the discussion of the draft is done without the participation of the premier, his deputies and high-ranking representatives of the president. They voiced dissatisfaction with the absence of the parliament speaker.

In the afternoon the debates will go on.

Commission Endorses Budget

LD2602151293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1252 GMT 26 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Maria Kuzmenkova]

[Text] Moscow February 26 TASS—The president's budget message for 1993, submitted to parliament in November, has been drastically changed and is now more realistic. Therefore it can be recommended for endorsement in the first reading, the Russian parliament was told by Aleksandr Pochinok, chairman of the Planning and Budget Commission.

Having dwelt on the unsatisfactory financial results of 1992, Pochinok described the production slump as catastrophic. He said that attempts to stabilise the financial situation in the economy had failed, the real incomes of the population dwindled and savings were rendered valueless. The Central Bank handed out two trillion roubles in credits further increasing the state debt.

Finally, the state anti-inflation programme had fallen through as artificial restriction of the supply of money led to the crisis of payments. Authors of this policy, Pochinok said, failed to take account of the nature of Russian inflation which was caused by monopolism. It is impossible to defeat inflation without increasing volumes of production and volumes of purchases of commodities. Therefore this year funds should be used to finance priority branches.

Pochinok also noted that last year Russia suffered significant losses in foreign economic activity. Lifting state monopoly on foreign trade had not yielded a single positive result, he said.

TV 'Monopoly' on Agenda of 26 Feb Session

LD2602183593 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1310 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Report by Olga Vailenko]

[Excerpt] In the news bulletin that opened today's Panorama, we reported that the issue of an unacceptable monopoly over state television had been included on the agenda. This question—which was proposed by one of the deputies—will not be discussed today but at a later session. However, it was raised at today's session by Deputy Nikolay Pavlov. He was outraged by yesterday's appearance on both channels—Ostankino and Russian Television—of Shumeyko and Filatov. He wanted to know why all the broadcasting time is being given over to supporters of the president. He asked why there is no time for the opposition. Naturally, he was indignant at the stance taken by these two state officials, who were, no doubt, quite critical of the Congress and Supreme Soviet. So the opposition naturally wanted time for itself.

A vote was taken on whether to discuss this problem at the session and the motion was passed. The allocation of broadcasting time on television will be debated.

This did not, however, address the question of the press. Deputy Yakunin recalled yesterday's commotion in the chamber when copies of the DEN newspaper were handed out free of charge. Deputies crowded around the Presidium in order to get their copies of this newspaper. Yakunin read out some extracts, which came close to calling for the overthrow of all the current power structures. Yakunin asked why the procuracy was not investigating this. He urged that they discuss this question as well.

Voronin, who was chairing the session today, said that this was not a question for the session. He said: Let the procuracy handle it itself. That was the end of the matter.

I think the main thing being discussed today—the sole item up to now, since the discussion is continuing at the moment—is the draft law on Russia's budget system. Finance Minister Barchuk told deputies that the budget deficit might exceed 5 trillion rubles [R] this year. Just imagine—we now count our money in trillions! The expenditure side of the budget comes to R17 trillion. Of this, R8 trillion will be spent on the social sector. This is a very, very substantial percentage. Another R2.5 trillion will go on the agro-industrial sector. Some R1.3 trillion is allocated to subsidies for the coal industry. Some R3 trillion will be spent on the army, which must be saved. Subsidizing the spring sowing will cost R1 trillion. Subsidies on bread will cost 206 billion. Some 9 billion will be spent on procurement of this year's grain harvest, and so on and so forth.

In order to ensure that the revenue needed to cover all this expenditure is collected properly, the taxation system is being reinforced. The tax police have started work. We read with interest a press report about the arrest of a very high-ranking government official who accepted bribes. No doubt this is the tax police at work. A law on cash registers is in preparation. This may bring our commercial kiosk holders, who do not pay any tax to the state, into line.

Furthermore—and this is interesting news—over R200 billion will be spent on compensation for deposits that you and I hold with the Savings Bank. The interest rate is supposed to be going up. We will not discuss this now because a decision has not yet been made. I only know that, for a number of deposits, the interest rate will be more than 100 percent. So there will be some compensation. [passage omitted]

Session Passes Bill Adding Articles to Penal Code

OW2602203593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1930 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Friday [26 February], the Russian parliament has passed, in the first reading, the bill which envisages extension of Russia's penal code by several new articles.

In particular, the parliament intends to treat as a criminal offense illegal export of goods, scientific and technical information and services which can be applied to the development and production of arms and military equipment, as well as weapons of mass destruction.

All these offenses will be punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to 5 years with or without confiscation of the offender's personal property, or a fine amounting to 50 minimal wages.

The export of materials, equipment, know-how, or scientific and technical information which have been designed for peaceful purposes but can also be used for developing and building nuclear, chemical and other devices of mass destruction will be punishable by a term of imprisonment of 3 to 10 years or a fine amounting to 100 minimal wages.

Proceedings From 26 Feb Session Reported

LD2702035893

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 2047 GMT on 26 February carries recorded parliamentary proceedings in its "At the Russian Supreme Soviet" program.

Deputy Pavlov first decries frequent statements on TV by senior politicians in favor of the April referendum and demands a debate on this monopolization of the media. Vote carried, date of debate not given.

Deputy Yakunin asks the Procurator General to prosecute an extremist newspaper for offensive descriptions of Yeltsin and his government.

Finance Minister Barchuk speaks on the budget. He is critical of the Supreme Soviet for proposing spending items and not economies, and explains the consequences in terms of the federal budget deficit. He also gives breakdowns of figures for foreign trade. Deputies' questions concern money supply, inflation-proofing of savings, taxation, defense spending.

Chairman of the budgetary commission Pochinok speaks. He recommends the budget message in its present form although he has misgivings about some inadequacies. He speaks against unthinking issue of credits and passing of expenditures.

The budget is voted on. Soviet of the Republics: 55 for, 15 against, 16 abstentions, so voted down. Soviet of the Nationalities: 77 for, 3 against, 4 abstentions, vote carried. A re-vote is called for the Soviet of the Republics: 64 for, 15 against, 13 abstentions, vote carried.

A debate begins on a commission examining the situation in the country's mass media. Deputies propose more members of the commission; the chairman objects and asks for the commission to be left alone to get on with its job. He calls a vote on this; deputies agree with him and vote accordingly.

Khasbulatov Urges More Women in Supreme Soviet

LD2602061793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1909 GMT 25 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow February 25 TASS—"If there were more women in the Russian parliament, all issues could have been resolved with greater tolerance," Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, said during a meeting held in the House of Soviets in Moscow today with representatives of Russian woman organizations from different regions. These women are participants to an internatinal seminar and plenary session of the Women's Union of Russia.

Complaining that women in Russia constitute only 5.5 per cent of the total number of the people's deputies, Ruslan Khasbulatov said: "We will help the involvement of women in regional and federal politics, and into working of the legislature and executive."

Khasbulatov also emphasised the necessity of adoption of a block of acts which can define the status of family, women and children. According to him, these acts should be based on democratic principles drawn up by legislative power. "These directions will be given priority in the future as well in the work of the Supreme Soviet," he said.

Regarding the situation in the country, the speaker of the Russian Parliament emphasised that the main thing at present is "to maintain the democratic direction of the development of our society."

Khasbulatov Reply to Yeltsin Proposal Eyed

PM2602100993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Feb 93 p 2

[Report by Leonid Nikitinskiy of "Sixth Floor" Independent News Agency: "First Reaction By Supreme Soviet to President's Proposals"]

[Text] The presidential administration received two documents 18 February, with a cover letter from the Supreme Soviet chairman, in response to B. Yeltsin's proposals containing an initiative for the new agreement on stabilizing Russia's constitutional system which was sent to R. Khasbulatov 17 February.

These documents comprise: 1) proposals addressed to Khasbulatov from the Supreme Soviet Legislation Committee signed by its Chairman M. Mityukov; 2) a scheme by a working group of the Constitutional Commission originally addressed to the commission's Deputy Chairman N. Ryabov by leader of the Commission's Secretariat A. Goltsblat.

Since the president's initiative, composed as an "agreement of the federal organs of the legislative and executive branches of power...", has already been elucidated and explained by B. Yeltsin himself and others, let us basically dwell on the counterproposals and how they differ from the president's initiative.

Because the two documents which the Supreme Soviet has sent contradict each other to a certain degree and, however much we might wish to do so, it is hard to regard them as a single package, we will be forced to refer to one and the other in turn.

The Legislation Committee (Mityukov's note) proceeds from the premise that the president should request the Supreme Soviet to convene a congress at the end of February or the beginning of March in order to perform its duty to protect state and public security. The congress will make amendments and additions to its own decree of 12 December on "Stabilizing the Constitutional System." The Constitutional Commission's scheme (the note to Ryabov) also proposes to convene a congress for one or two days at the beginning of March with the aim of approving the "agreed proposals to strengthen and develop the Russian Federation's constitutional system," which the president, the Supreme Soviet, and the Constitutional Court submitted jointly to the congress.

With reference to the referendum which had initially been scheduled for 11 April, the note addressed to Ryabov suggests that it is not held at all, while the note to Mityukov proposes that it be put off until the fall of 1994.

The Constitutional Commission (Ryabov) proposes that the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies be convened to adopt a new Constitution in November 1993, following the draft's basic provisions which the Sixth Congress approved in April 1992. The Legislation Committee (Mityukov), while continuing to insist on a referendum, is at the same time proposing to confirm the exclusive prerogative of the congress in its present composition to adopt the Constitution, although by its own reasoning the congress will be able to do this on the basis of the future referendum's results no earlier than late fall 1994 or the winter of 1995.

It is in this paragraph that the proposals from the Supreme Soviet differ most from those of Yeltsin, the former giving an especially formed Constitutional Assembly the right to adopt the Constitution, and it is likely that parliament's and the president's counterinitiatives will be most difficult to reconcile with regard to this particular paragraph.

On the other hand, both Mityukov's note and the one addressed to Ryabov contain proposals running counter to the president's interests to an even greater extent than might have been expected. It is proposed, in particular, that the extraordinary congress review Part II, Article 104 of the present Constitution which allows the congress to adopt for scrutiny any question without restriction, and bring it in line with the principle of the separation of the branches of power. Ryabov's note proposes that in the same article the congress should not be called "the supreme organ of state" power but the "supreme organ of legislative" power, which, theoretically, would considerably limit its and the Supreme Soviet's opportunities to interfere in the president's business.

Although Mityukov's note does note agree with the president's proposals on the Central Bank being under the dual control of the Supreme Soviet and the president, they are compatible with one another. Apart from this it also proposes that byelections be held for the absent members of the Constitutional Court with candidates being nominated by the president and not by the Supreme Soviet as is usually the practice. The note to Ryabov proposes establishing a two-thirds rather than a simple majority for overruling the deferrable presidential veto on laws being adopted by the Supreme Soviet.

On the other hand, you cannot help but take notice of the fact that the president's proposals are better worked out both as a whole and, for example, as far as they concern the guarantees that the Constitutional Court and the Federation's members observe the future agreement. Here the government's autonomous role can be seen more clearly, which possibly will not receive an enthusiastic response from the parliamentary structures.

It is hardly likely that the notes from the Legislation Committee to Khasbulatov and from the Constitutional Commission to Ryabov were not actually meant to be sent to the president as a reply to his initiative, but are rather internal parliamentary documents. Having sent them to Yeltsin with a brief covering letter and having flown out immediately afterwards to Novosibirsk, Khasbulatov evidently does not consider that by so doing he is denying himself the right to partially or totally disavow the proposals contained in the documents under scrutiny during future negotiations.

On the other hand, it is wrong to gloss over the very significant detail in the Constitutional Commission's scheme which was designated as a suggestion "for the meeting between the president, the Supreme Soviet chairman, and the Constitutional Court chairman." The implication that the speaker's deputies may appear among these people can be interpreted in two opposing ways: As support for him in the negotiations with the president, as well as a growing desire in the Supreme Soviet to force Khasbulatov not to participate in these negotiations alone.

Regional Affairs

Explosion on Kislovodsk-Baku Train Kills 10

LD2802145993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1017 GMT 28 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 28 Feb—At 0745 today an explosive device went off in one of the carriages of train number 260, traveling between Kislovodsk and Baku. [passage omitted]

An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs that as a result of the explosion ten passengers were killed and 15 were injured to varying degrees of seriousness; moreover, eight of these are in a critical condition. There were 35 people in all in carriage eleven, and only one seat was vacant.

13 Reported Dead

OW2802131293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1244 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At 7:25 on Sunday [28 February] a car of the Kislovodsk-Baku train was blasted at the entrance to the Gudermes railway station in Chechnya. According to the estimates of Chechnia's law-enforcement agencies, 13 passengers were killed as a result of the blast. 12 others were injured.

As IF [INTERFAX] learned from Chechnya's Interior Ministry, they believe that the blast was caused by sabotage. The explosive device is believed to have been introduced at the Prokhladnaya station in Kabardino-Balkaria. Passengers who survived have said that a small box was brought to the car at that station.

Investigations are under way.

Dudayev on Blast

LD2802213293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2051 GMT 28 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy February 28 TASS—Appearing on Groznyy television this evening, Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev said the explosion was aimed at destabilising the situation in Chechnya and aggravating its relations with Azerbaijan. On behalf of the Chechen leaders, he expressed condolences to the families of those perished and injured.

Referring to the results of the initial investigation, Dudayev said the time bomb was received as a parcel by a car attendant in Baku from two unidentified persons for a hand-over at the Mineralnye Vody station.

According to tentative information, the bomb was to go off at the crowded Gudermes station, which would cause by far more casualties. But the train was detained for 30 minutes and the bomb tore through the train while it was running. It was established that mostly residents of Chechnya and one citizen of Azerbaijan fell victim to the tragedy.

Dudayev also said Chechnya is from now on tightening control over all transport facilities of neighbouring republics passing via its territory. Specifically, all passenger and freight trains on the section of the railway between the Prokhladnaya and Kizlyar stations will be controlled by Chechen secret services.

Additional security measures were also taken at Groznyy airport from where flights to Moscow have resumed. "We do not accept terror ourselves and will not allow it on our territory," Dudayev said.

Chechen Delegation Doubts Resumption of Talks Soon

LD2602183493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1451 GMT 26 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy February 26 TASS—Talks between the Chechen Republic and Russia are unlikely to resume soon, at least in Groznyy, said head of the Chechen delegation to the talks with Russia Bek Mezhidov, who is also first deputy Chechen parliamentary chairman.

In an interview with the CHECHENPRESS news agency on Friday [26 February], Mezhidov said the tense social and political situation in the republic "almost rules out the possibility of holding talks with the Russian delegation in our republic in the near future."

Mezhidov hopes, however, that the talks could be held in Dagomys, a venue of a previous round of talks. But for this to happen, it is necessary to stabilise the political situation in the Chechen republic, Mezhidov said.

The talks were due to take place in Groznyy in the second half of February.

Chechen Official Calls For Talks, Deals With Russia

LD2702121793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2127 GMT 26 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy, 27 Feb—Yaragi Mamodayev, first deputy premier of Chechnya, appealed to the leaders of the republic on Groznyy Television last night to renew negotiations with Russia and find an "acceptable economic agreement." Mamodayev said that economic performance in Chechnya last year was "lamentable", and that only "the great patience of the working people, who have not left work for good in this chaos, has saved Chechnya from massive industrial decline."

"Let us first conclude a treaty with Russia that is acceptable to us and oriented more toward the economy, then we can come back to sorting out political relations," he said. He called on President Dudayev and parliament speaker Akhmadov to "leave personal ambition behind and find mutual understanding and concord in the name of saving the people from poverty."

Yeltsin Signs Decree on Ingush Republic Development

LD2702165893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0958 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow, 27 Feb— Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree providing for an extensive set of measures of state support for the establishment and socioeconomic development of the Ingush Republic.

There is provision in particular for the elaboration of an integrated program for the republic's socioeconomic development in 1993 and subsequent years. For the current year Ingushetia is allocated 6 billion rubles [R] for the creation and development of its housing infrastructure, R1.5 million for the development of its agroindustrial complex, and R400 million for the construction of amenities in the social and cultural sphere.

There is provision for the modernization at federal budget expense of the Nazran knitwear factory, the Elektroinstrument plant, and a number of other enterprises in order to expand the employment sphere for the population.

This decree is published on the eve of the first presidential elections in Ingushetia to be held on 28 February. Seventy-nine polling stations in the three territorial constituencies of Nazran, Malgobek and Sudzhensk will open at 0700. A fourth constituency has been created for refugees from North Ossetia, of whom there are about 60,000 in Ingushetia. One polling station is assigned to them in each of the republic's populated centers.

According to Magomed Sakalov, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, who met with journalists, about 110,000 voters including refugees are entered on the electoral rolls. In addition the Ingush diaspora of about 5,000 individuals in Moscow, about 6,000 in Alma-Ata and about 2,000 in Groznyy will take part in the voting. There are no polling stations within the territory of the Prigorodnyy rayon of North Ossetia. Those from this rayon who wish to vote may travel to Ingushetia. If need be, an itinerant commission may go there.

Ruslan Aushev, the sole candidate for the post of Ingushetia's president, will be elected head of the republic if no less than 25 percent of the population entitled to vote takes part in the voting and he receives over 50 percent of the votes. It is planned to make public the results of the elections on 2 March.

In his election campaign Ruslan Aushev stated that the main aim of his program is to create Ingush statehood and to determine the structure of power in the republic: Legislative authority in the person of parliament and executive authority in the person of the government with the president at its head. In the sphere of nationalities policy, Ruslan Aushev sets the goal of determining the borders of the Ingush Republic as quickly as possible. He considers that individuals permanently residing in the territory of Ingushetia should be granted dual citizenship—of the Russian Federation and the Ingush Republic. In Ruslan Aushev's view it is essential to strengthen the ties of kinship with the Chechen people and to develop good-neighborly relations with all republics and peoples.

Ingush-Ossetian Talks To Resume After Elections

LD2602161393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1332 GMT 26 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Styzahkin]

[Text] Kislovodsk February 26 TASS—Talks on the Ingush- Ossetian settlement adjourned last week are to be resumed after presidential elections held in the republic, ITAR-TASS learned on Friday [26 February] from the regional administration of Stavropol region whose representatives and their colleagues from Daghestan are taking part in the talks as mediators.

On the instruction by the plenipotentiary delegations of North Ossetia and Ingushetia, special expert groups are using the break to thoroughly study problems connected with the achievement of agreements, meeting the interests of both sides, on the return of refugees to places of their permanent residence and practical implementation of previously signed agreements on the search for missing people, unconditional release of hostages, disarmament of illegal formations.

Another round of talks is expected to take place in Narzan Hotel in Kislovodsk.

Appeal To End Ingush-Ossetian Conflict Circulated

LD2702151693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1500 GMT 27 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz February 27 TASS—A statement of head of the temporary administration on territories of northern Ossetia and Ingushetia Aleksandr Kotenkov has been circulated today, on the eve of Ingush president elections, by the temporary administration press and information department.

The statement says, in particular, "A number of armed attacks at and shelling of Russian troops has been recently registered in the state of emergency zone, provocations on the part of Chechen armed units have increased.

"Nationalistic forces, acting both inside and outside both republics, are striving to instigate armed clashes and stir up the Ingush-Ossetian conflict. They are trying to involve people in a giant adventure.

"I categorically state: Criminal plans and actions of extremists will be stopped. We will not allow the appearance of another bloodshed hotbed on Russian soil. The right of citizens to peaceful life will be ensured. The territorial dispute of the two republics can be solved only through peaceful negotiations".

Appealing to citizens, living in the state of emergency zone, Kotenkov called for showing civic and patriotic responsibility and supporting peace-making efforts of Russian servicemen.

"We have a common goal of restoring peace in the conflict zone. We will take the toughest and most decisive measures as regards all extremist and nationalistic forces, which will hamper the conflict settlement in the state of emergency zone," said the temporary administration head.

Observers Report North Ossetia, Ingushetia Calm

LD2802151593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1442 GMT 28 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valery Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 28 February (TASS)—The past 24 hours in North Ossetia and Ingushetia were comparatively calm. Russian peace-keeping forces keep the situation in the region fully under their control and continue to fulfil the tasks of ensuring compliance with emergency regulations. No reports about shootouts and local seats of armed confrontation on ethnic grounds were monitored from the area afflicted by the armed conflict.

Local observers believe that some strabilisation of the socio-political situation is associated with the elections of president of the Ingush Republic which are held today. Major-General Ruslan Aushev, 38, is the only candidate for the post of the republic's top executive officer. He is supported by the national front, a socio-political movement of Ingushetia whose prime goal is to consolidate all progressively-minded forces in the republic.

An appeal by Major-General Alexander Kotenkov, head of the temporary adminstration in North Ossetia and Ingushetia, drew wide response in the region. Kotenkov called on citizens living in the area under the state of emergency to display civic responsibility, restraint and self-possession and support Russian troops' peacekeepking efforts.

Meanwhile, the criminological situation in North Ossetia and Ingushetia does not improve, according to the headquarters of the temporary administration. Fifty one people were detained for violating the curfew and emergency regulations, seventeen crimes and incidents were registered. Law enforcement officers inspected over 5,000 cars. They seized tens of firearms, grenades, explosive devices and hundreds of cartridges of various calibre over 24 hours.

There has been no swap of hostages between the sides for the forth month in the region, meanwhile, the search group from the Russian Interior Ministry, in the bid to resume this process, is specifying addresses in Ingushetia and North Ossetia and organising the collection of information to identify hostages and those who went missing.

North Ossetia 'May Consider' Institution of Presidency

OW2602130693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1130 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At its session that resumed on Friday [26 February], North Ossetia's Supreme Soviet may consider the institution of the presidency. An appeal to make it an agenda issue had been signed by 76 of the 150 deputies-strong Republican Parliament.

Endorsed by the Parliament's Presidium on Thursday, the agenda includes a speech by Chairman Akhsarbek Galazov [name as received] about the political situation in the republic and an analysis by a Parliamentary commission of the causes of the conflict in North Ossetia's Prigorodnyy region.

In the meantime, at a meeting on Wednesday, representatives of the republic's ethnic and cultural societies pointed to the untimeliness of Presidential elections and stressed the need to focus on social and economic problems, brought about by the complex social and political situation.

North Ossetian Parliament Examines Regional Situation

LD2602203793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1647 GMT 26 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz February 26 TASS—A session of the North Ossetian Parliament discussed today ways out of the complicated social-political situation in the republic.

A report of parliament head Akhsarbek Galazov and speeches of deputies noted, in particular, the regional situation is extremely tense due to sharp production recession caused by the breaking of external and internal economic and social relations. The armed Ossetian-Ingush clash in the Prigorodnyy region inflicted a considerable material damage. The crime situation is tense and the refugee issue receives no comprehensive solution.

A resolution of the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet envisages the concentration of parliamentary and government actions on the continuation of democratic transformations to be closely linked with the consolidation of the North Ossetian constitutional system and development of legislation basis to ensure social protection of the population and prevention of further production recession.

The resolution focused on the elimination of aftermath of the armed conflict in the Prigorodnyy region and search for ways of peaceful settlement of the Ossetian-Ingush relations.

The session heatedly discussed "the political estimation of tragic events in October, 1992, in the North Ossetian Prigorodnyy region". Deputies considered approaches and proposals on the comprehensive solution of the refugee issue. The session did not approve a proposal of a group of North Ossetian deputies to introduce an amendment in the republican constitution to introduce presidential rule in Northern Ossetia.

The session was attended by Head of Temporary Administration in Northern Ossetia and Ingushetia Major-General Aleksandr Kotenkov.

According to the information of the temporary administration headquarters, the situation in Northern Ossetia and Ingushetia remains complicated. Russian militia check points were twice put under fire in the past 24 hours on the outskirts of the Ordzhonikidzevskaya settlement in the Sunzhenskiy region of the Ingush Republic. Measures are taken there to enhance peacemakers' groups.

Unidentified persons put under automatic rifle fire the Procurator's Office from hospital area at 22:30 on February 25 in Nazran. A duty detail from the Russian Interior Ministry's Operative-Investigation Group opened response fire. Luckily, there were no casualties.

All in all, over 50 people were detained for violating the curfew, 25 crimes and incidents were registered in the past 24 hours. Over 3,000 cars were searched.

Staffers of the negotiations process service participated in a meeting of representatives of Northern Ossetia and Ingushetia and Head of the Temporary Administration Major-General Aleksandr Kotenkov to organize timely and safe sawing campaign in border areas of the two republics. [sentence as received] Preparations of documents for another round of negotiations of the Ossetian and Ingush sides with the mediation of Dagestan and Stavropol representatives continues in Vladikavkaz and Nazran.

Grachev Meets 49th Army Command in Krasnodar

LD2602191193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 26 Feb 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Continuing his working tour of the North Caucasian Military District, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev visited Krasnodar today. He met the command of the 49th Army and the kray leadership. They discussed the situation in Krasnodar Kray, which has become a border region, and ways to solve problems linked with the restationing of major military combined units from Eastern Europe. Speaking about the aims of his visit, which, it has been learned, is causing anxiety in Tbilisi, Grachev said:

[Begin Grachev recording] My task was to hear how the formation of the new combat [boyevoy] 49th Army is going, how the matter of setting up new units and subunits is being tackled, and how combat training for the Army is being carried out. [end recording] [Video shows Grachev and other uniformed officials talking outdoors amid small crowd of civilians and journalists, Grachev being interviewed.]

Gaydar Invited To Run for Kalmyk Prime Minister

MK2602112493 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 25 Feb 93 p 9

[Viktor Yemelyanov report: "Former Russian Prime Minister To Prop Up Reform in Kalmykia"]

[Text] In the evening of 24 February, Yegor Gaydar, director of the Institute for Economic Problems of the

Transitional Period, met with Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, president of the Russian Chamber of Entrepreneurs. According to KOMMERSANT-DAILY experts, the meeting focused on a proposal by Ilyumzhinov, who is running for the Kalmyk presidency, to invite Mr. Gaydar to run for election as Kalmyk prime minister.

In an interview for KOMMERSANT-DAILY given immediately after the meeting, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, a multimillionaire politician and president of the San corporation and the Step Bank, declined for the time being to confirm whether Gaydar was willing to accept the position of prime minister. "The Kalmyk president-elect will announce his choice of prime minister only on 12 April, but before that, I have to win the election." According to Ilyumzhinov, the meeting did focus on the election campaign, and Gaydar promised to lend him moral support and scientific assistance in drawing up an economic reform plan. The aim of both politicians is "to build capitalism in a small part of the former USSR, if we cannot do it over the entire territory." KOMMERSANT-DAILY experts believe that there is a chance of achieving this, because Kalmykia is economically independent and rich in mineral resources.

Poltoranin Discusses Omsk Visit, Departs for Moscow

LD2702222193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2141 GMT 27 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Petrov]

[Text] Omsk February 27 TASS—"People are tired of political discord and eager to work, that is my impression from the Omsk visit," Mikhail Poltoranin told ITAR-TASS before leaving Omsk today. "But in order to do it society needs stability, order and strong power".

Poltoranin has visited a major Russian Omsknefteorgsintez amalgamation, the Omich polygraphy complex, the Azov German national region and place of burial of Stalin repression victims near the Achair settlement, where the construction of an Orthodox monastery and a Siberian spiritual center has begun.

He said, unfortunately, central mass media has practically forgotten Russia is not only the capital, but, primarily, remote areas, where the national spirit is alive and the people's striving for revival of Russian greatness is most evident. [sentence as received]

Even foreigners are surprised with this specific use of the freedom of the press, when state criminals in the person of coup plotters, whose preventive punishment has been changed on humane reasons, are trying to clean themselves in the eyes of the people and even made heroes in numerous interviews, he stressed.

This is an alarming fact, which reflects an unsound situation, the lowering of cultural level in some newspapers. Former "pressed down" feeling and lack of freedom have been replaced with permissiveness and in some publications real obscenity.

The Federal Information Center head expressed the hope the problem will be discussed at the Russian correspondents' union, and the Supreme Soviet, which plans on the basis of its resolution to adopt amendments and additions to the criminal and criminal-procedure codes and the document on administrative offenses, will, possibly, envisage some limits to this arbitrariness.

Asked about prospects for the local press survival, Poltoranin called attention to the need for its financial support done in 1992 by the Russian Ministry of Information. Another way out is reorganization into joint stock societies of former party and other publications, in which newspapers printed in them must take part.

In Omsk, for instance, the construction of Russia's largest newspaper-magazine complexes of the Soviet Communist Party has been completed by 90 per cent. Today the state does not have money to finish the construction and imported equipment is idle, while newspapers are printed on 30-year-old machinery.

There is only one way out of the situation—to pass over the complex from federal to regional property. In the words of Poltoranin, regional Governor Leonid Polezhayev has promised to find money to complete the work, and supports the idea to reorganize the complex into joint stock society with participation of newspapers. Thus, correspondents will become complex owners together with polygraphic workers.

Mikhail Poltoranin left for Moscow today.

Moscow TV Chief Dismissed for 'Red-Brown' Bias

MK2502150593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Feb 93 p 1

[I.Sh. report: "Moscow Television Channel Without A Director?"]

[Text] There is information to the effect that a session of the members of the Moscow television and radio company founding council was held the other day at which Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov made an accusation against the company's general director, Aygar Missas, saying that under his leadership the Moscow television channel has propagandized "red-brown" views. After the council session, deputy mayor Ernest Bakirov and Aleksandr Braginskiy and Guram Gorguladze, director of the Moscow information and press department, went to the emergency directorate meeting called by Missan and announced the founding council's decision to dismiss the general director. According to television and radio company staff, the decision was occasioned by appearances by General Sterligov and by Anpilov in the "Party Platform" section of the "Moskoviya" program and by Yuriy Vlasov's 17 February appearance, when he criticized Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov's work.

Moscow Mayor Ends Departments' Role in Enterprises

MK2602053193 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Feb 93 p 2

[Untitled report carried in "In Brief" column of agencyc and correspondent reports]

[Text] [Moscow Mayor] Yuriy Luzhkov has signed a directive telling all departments of the capital's government to withdraw from the founding bodies of established enterprises within one month. It was announced at the city hall press center that this has been done to implement the state program for privatization and in order to demonopolize production and entrepreneurial structures. The Moscow Property Management Committee will succeed the departments in the enterprise founding bodies.

Moscow Government Accuses Newspaper of Distorted Reporting

MK2602124893 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Feb 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Developments at Moscow Television"]

[Text] In a letter to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, the acting chief of the Moscow Government Press Department has said that a report in the newspaper published on 25 February gave the wrong interpretation of what was going on at Moscow Television:

"It was with great regret that we read the 25 February issue of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. In its 32-line report "Moscow Television Without a Director?" your usually well-informed publication managed to make a whole number of distortions of the truth. There was no decision made "the other day" by the Founders Council to dismiss the general director of the Moscow Television and Radio Company, and neither was this announced at the meeting of the board of directors.

We also completely disagree with the way the newspaper portrayed the Moscow government's relations with Moscow Television. During the 23 February meeting of the Founders Council, the Moscow mayor did not "accuse" the compilers of the Moscow Television program of providing air time for any opposition politician. What the meeting did discuss was the markedly reduced interest among Muscovites in Moscow Television because of the lack of convincing programs on issues vital to city residents, and the lack of thought in putting together many political programs that are built on one-sided assessments, are far from in the spirit of plurality of views, and contain distortions of the facts.

Tatarstan Experts To Bring Draft Agreements to Moscow

OW2502145293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1354 GMT 25 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A group of Tatar experts on Thursday [25 February] left Kazan for Moscow to continue talks with Russia on bilateral economic relations. Expert groups on both sides were formed on the basis of an agreement between the Russian and Tatar Presidents, Boris Yeltsin and Mintimer Shaymiyev, during their latest meeting in Moscow.

Tatarstan has prepared drafts for six agreements, including on ownership of property in Tatarstan, budget relations, military industrial enterprises, oil transportation, banking and customs regulations.

Tatar Prime Minister Mukhammad Sabirov, who is planning to leave for Moscow the same day, is also expected to take part in the talks.

Tatarstan Presidential Adviser on Russian Foreign Policy

OW2502162593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1546 GMT 25 Feb 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tatarstan cannot coordinate its foreign policy with the Russian Foreign Ministry, Rafael Khakimov, an adviser of Tatarstan's president, told Interfax. He also said that Russia has no concept of foreign policy as such. "It is only to be drafted," he added.

Khakimov also noted that during the recent session of the Council of the heads of the Russian Federation's republics, Tatarstan proposed that the republics be allowed to take part in drafting the principles of Russia's foreign policy.

Tatarstan Supreme Soviet Resumes Session

OW0103121193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1101 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Tatarstan Supreme Soviet has resumed its session in Kazan on Monday [1 March]. The deputies will discuss the budget, the crime fighting program, amend its own resolution declaring the republic a zone free from weapons of mass destruction, and adopt a resolution on military service of conscripts from Tatarstan.

Over 70 deputies signed a demand that the agenda include a declaration of Tatarstan's neutrality. Those who want this issue discussed say that all the necessary documents have been prepared and examined by experts in international law. However, they were two votes short and the issue was put off until the next session.

That session will also discuss adoption of declaration on the setting up of an interparliamentary assembly of republics in the Volga region.

Legislators Vote To Dismiss Sakhalin Governor

LD2502140093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1228 GMT 25 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Belovitskiy]

[Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk February 25 TASS—Most lawmakers of the Sakhalin island in the Russian far east voted to dismiss Valentin Fyodorov, the governor of the region appointed by the Russian president.

Although 55 legislators voted in favour of the dismissal and 19 against, the decision is not final as 22 lawmakers refused to cast their ballot thus denying quorum necessary to adopt a decision. The council will adopt the final verdict on Friday [26 February].

Fyodorov, who was invited to Sakhalin from Moscow three years ago to build a "free market economy paradise" on the island, came under bitter criticism of lawmakers who blamed him for problems and misfortunes which befell on Sakhalin and Kuril islands, which make part of the region.

Nobody proposed any ways of leading the region out of the crisis which hit the whole of Russia.

No other candidate for the post was proposed and experts fear a long-lasting crisis of the executive authority on the island.

Fyodorov is known as a staunch supporter of keeping Russian four southern Kuril islands, claimed by Japan.

St. Petersburg Naval Shipyard Becomes Joint-Stock Company

MK2602111893 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 25 Feb 93 p 5

[Anna Shcherbakova report: "Final Decision on Privatization Adopted"]

[Text] On 24 February, the Baltiyskiy Zavod company in St. Petersburg, one of the largest manufacturers of civilian, and formerly also naval, surface ships, received a directive signed by Deputy Prime Minister Georgiy Khizha lifting all restrictions on its conversion into a joint-stock company. This marked the end of the episode of how the government suspended the privatization of the plant after it had already begun. Observers view the fact that the government finally opted for transforming Baltiyskiy Zavod into a joint-stock company as an important precedent in the privatization of large-scale enterprises subject to conversion.

Baltiyskiy Zavod is Russia's leading manufacturer of large-capacity vessels. It builds missile carriers, cruisers, tankers, timber and ore vessels, satellite communications vessels, and nuclear-powered ice breakers.

The Baltiyskiy Zavod joint-stock company was registered by the St. Petersburg city hall on 18 December 1992. The plan was to distribute 51 percent of the shares among the workers by closed subscription, and 20 percent was to be given in trust to a group of individuals, including the plant's management, for a period of five years. On 28 December, however, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin directed that the privatization should be stopped. In doing so, he cited the defense importance of the enterprise, although the construction of the last naval vessel on its order book, the cruiser Petr Velikiy, is nearing completion, and the plant has no other military-related orders. The ban originated in the committee for defense industries. In January, Oleg Shulyekovskiy, Baltiyskiy Zavod director general, was received by Georgiy Khizha. The deputy prime minister promised him that he would lend his support to the plant's privatization.

Georgiy Khizha's directive No. 24 lifting restrictions on the corporatization of Baltiyskiy Zavod followed Yeltsin's signing request No. 1146/2 of 10 February 1993 to the prime minister and the chairman of the State Committee for the Management of State Property, which pointed to the advisability of liberalizing the corporatization policy for large-scale enterprises subject to conversion.

International Affairs

Kiev Denies Sale of Warheads to Palestinians

OW2602182193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1648 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukraine has dismissed reports by the AL-QUDS (Holy City) newspaper, being published in Moscow, to the effect that Kiev reportedly sold the Palestine resistance movement two nuclear warheads and that Ukrainian officers were instructing Palestinians "in the handling and combat use of nuclear warheads".

The newspaper "AL-QUDS" is published in Moscow in Russian and Arabic and its circulation is rather small. The publisher, Shaaban Hafiz, a Palestinian businessmen, is involved in construction and banking projects in Moscow.

The press service of the Ukrainian embassy has said that the publications were a crude fraud. The Ukrainian mission said that the purpose of such publications was to make the world think that Ukraine had failed to comply with international agreements and its nuclear arms nonproliferation pledges. The Ukrainian embassy recalled that the incident took place at a time when the commissions of the Ukrainian parliament were studying the START 1 treaty. Ukrainian diplomats said it was an attempt to drive a wedge between Ukraine and the Russian Federation and to make the people of Russia doubt the sincerity of Ukraine's intentions and actions.

The editors of the "AL-QUDS" newspaper have avoided making any comments on the Ukrainian embassy's statement. They said that Shaaban Khafiz had to be contacted in person first and that he was not in Moscow at the moment.

Report Termed 'Foul Provocation'

LD2802185993 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] [Announcer] We have just received a video report from our own correspondent in Moscow which refutes another libel on the military policy of Ukraine. Here it is.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] There was a sensation yesterday. As became known, Ukraine allegedly sold to the Palestinian movement [word indistinct] two nuclear warheads, and five Ukrainian officers arrived in southern Lebanon. I have asked (Vadym Dolhanov), counsellor at the Ukrainian Embassy, to clarify such reports.

[Dolhanov] This canard has been published by the newspaper AL-QUDS which is registered in the Ministry of Press and Mass Media of the Russian Federation and published in Moscow. The head of this newspaper and its owner is one Professor Shaaban Hafiz, a Palestinian. But as we came to clarify, the newspaper is in effect a branch of SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, and the attitude of this newspaper to Ukraine's independence is known to everyone.

[Correspondent] What are such publications needed for?

[Dolhanov] It seems to me that they wanted to start in such a way an anti-Ukrainian campaign in the world press, as was done in case of the barges which allegedly supplied Ukrainian oil to Serbia. We made a resolute statement which we circulated among the mass media of Russia and leading world agencies in which we described the AL-QUDS report as a rather foul provocation.

[Correspondent] As is further stressed in the statement of the press service of the embassy, the objective of that publication is known: To impose on the world community the idea that Ukraine does not comply with international obligations or with its own on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. [end recording]

President Kravchuk on Official Visit to Hungary

Meets Hungarian President Goncz

LD2602213493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2117 GMT 26 Feb 93

[By UKRINFORM-ITAR-TASS special correspondents Viktor Demidenko, Sergey Zhirnikhin]

[Text] Budapest February 26 TASS—An official visit by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk to Hungary opened on Friday [26 February]. A ceremony of the meeting of the Ukrainian head of state was held on Budapest's Lajos Kossuth Square before the Hungarian parliament building decorated with the state flags of the two countries.

Later in the day talks were held between the presidents at the parliamentary building. The talks proceeded in a businesslike and constructive atmosphere, and were characterized with benevolence and openness. Kravchuk and Hungarian President Arpad Goncz highly appreciated the state and dynamics of the development of Hungarian-Ukrainian ties.

The sides stressed the two states had already concluded 20 agreements of various levels, which facilitate further deepening and widening mutually beneficial cooperation. The Hungarian president specially noted the importance and timeliness of the law on national minorities adopted in Ukraine. He also emphasised that Hungary is utterly interested in Ukraine's joining the process of European integration.

Touching upon the issue of the former Soviet Union's debt to Hungary, Mr. Goncz pointed out Budapest will accept the conditions of the debt payment which will be achieved by Ukraine and Russia.

In his turn, Leonid Kravchuk said Ukraine finds it important to develop comprehensive ties with Hungary. He expressed the hope that Budapest will promote the in-flow of foreign capital to Ukraine, the joining the European structure by the state.

Meets Hungarian Leaders, Signs Agreements

LD2702131193 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] The official visit to Hungary by Leonid Kravchuk, president of Ukraine, ends today. Talks between the heads of state have been held, which proceeded in a business-like, constructive atmosphere and were distinguished by their good will and openness.

Leonid Kravchuk and Arpad Goncz evaluated highly the state and dynamics of the development of Hungarian-Ukrainian links. It was emphasized that more then 20 agreements and treaties at various levels had already been concluded between the two countries, which contribute to the further deepening and extending of mutually advantageous cooperation.

Touching on the issue of the debts of the former Soviet Union to Hungary, Goncz noted that Budapest will accept the conditions for their repayment on those which Ukraine and Russia agree between themselves.

Leonid Kravchuk noted the importance of maintaining a regular dialogue at the highest level in the interests of dynamic development of bilateral relations and cooperation, directed at guaranteeing Europe-wide security. Kravchuk and Goncz agreed that the guarantee of national security of the two countries is integration [words indistinct] participation in the activity of international organizations and forums already in existence. They agreed that they will contribute to further increasing the efficiency of the work of the Council on Security and Cooperation in Europe and its structures. It was emphasized that the aim of the two countries is to join the European Community as full members.

After a meeting with Arpad Goncz, talks were held between the Ukrainian leader and Jozsef Antall, prime minister of Hungary. A news conference followed. The central issue of the joint news conference given by Leonid Kravchuk and Jozsef Antall was the subject of security in eastern and Central Europe. Praising the initiative elaborated by Ukraine, which was spoken about at the meeting with President Goncz, Leonid Kravchuk said that from Kiev's point of view a security vacuum has formed in the region following the break-up of the Soviet Union. Kiev believes that the countries of the region, which have become independent, can fill this vacuum themselves by concluding a package of (?legal-diplomatic) agreements. Ukraine's inititative is directed first at states of the region jointly declaring certain principles of coexistence.

During the course of the news conference, problems of the crisis on the territory of the former Yugoslavia were touched on. Leonid Kravchuk and Jozsef Antall were united in the belief that everything possible needs to be done in the interests of effecting a cease-fire as soon as possible, emphasizing the need to observe the sanctions introduced by the UN Organization.

Issues with regard to economic disputes between Russia and Ukraine, and also problems of the affiliation of the Crimea were raised at the news conference. Replying, Leonid Kravchuk reported that talks are being held now with Moscow on three main subjects: the issue of payment for deliveries of Russian oil and gas, problems of debts, and mutual payments. The issue of the affiliation of the Crimea is not on the agenda, because according to Ukraine's Constitution, the peninsula is an inseparable part of Ukraine.

[Word indistinct] yesterday evening an official reception was arranged in honor of the lofty Ukrainian guest.

Kravchuk Concludes Talks

LD2802113193 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk returned to Kiev yesterday following completion of his official visit to Hungary. During negotiations between Kravchuk and Hungarian President Arpad Goncz, Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall, National Assembly Speaker Szabad, the need to further bilateral relations was expressed, noting that the current level—especially economic ties—did not entirely correspond with the potential of both countries. In addition, the participants also examined possibilities and ways to include Ukraine in Central European regional cooperation.

An agreement covering the opening of a Hungarian consulate-general in Uzhgorod and a Ukrainian consulate-general in Nyiregyhaza this year was reached. As a result of the negotiations, a joint communique, an agreement on economic, scientific, technological, and production cooperation in agriculture, and other documents were signed.

Air Defense Cooperation Planned With Hungary

LD2702155093 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2300 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Protocols on the interaction of systems of air defense and the air forces of the two states have been elaborated by the Ukrainian and Hungarian military. This is the result of a three-day visit to Ukraine by a military delegation of the Hungarian Republic, headed by Major General Bela Balogh, inspector general of air defense and aviation and deputy commander of the Hungarian Army, which ended on 26 February. Delegation members acquainted themselves with the work of corresponding structures at the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, discussed the issue of mutual settlements regarding flights, and visited a zone center of air traffic control.

Leonid Kuchma Leaves for Surgut Summit

LD2802164593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Ukraine Premier Leonid Kuchma left by air today for the Russian town of Surgut, where a meeting will take place to which heads of government of all the former USSR republics have been invited. As Leonid Kuchma noted before departure, the question of creating an OPEC-style organization will be raised at the meeting. The position of Ukraine at the meeting, according to the premier, will be that of taking an equal part in developing oil and gas deposits of Russia. It is also planned that Leonid Kuchma will discuss with the leadership of Russia the issues of dividing the external debt of the former USSR, and of gas and oil prices.

Kuchma Believes Russia Threatens 'Economic Blockade'

LD2702175093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1516 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma held a news conference today on the results of the tour of four CIS Central Asian countries made by a governmental delegation which he led. Here is our correspondent Vladimir Sokolov, who is on the line to us from Kiev. Good evening.

[Sokolov] Good evening. It is known that in the course of this trip the Ukrainian Government delegation concluded a number of agreements on cooperation in various economic spheres with Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan. Leonid Kuchma emphasized, first, that the issue of getting energy resources, though important, was by no means the primary or the only one, and that political issues generally were secondary to economic ones. He pointed out:

[Kuchma] "There were practically no political issues. I can say unequivocally and honestly that in all the countries visited by the Ukrainian Government delegation, we spoke about the need to restore without delay all severed ties, including those with Russia. This was the main political issue."

[Sokolov] He added that all sorts of political games only got in the way of resolving vital economic problems.

[Kuchma] "On the whole, all political parties today should take a long break and let the executive power do its job."

[Sokolov] Answering numerous questions on the disagreements between Ukraine and Russia over world prices on oil and gas,which allegedly threaten to bring Ukraine to its knees, Leonid Kuchma said:

[Kuchma] "The idea of trading at international prices is not our own idea; it has been suggested to us. First, the Soviet Union began to trade with the former Comecon countries at world prices, so we ruined that common economic space. Trading with each other at world prices today, we are destroying with the same success the economic space we had within the Soviet Union, razing it to the ground. If Ukraine is brought down to its knees today, I do not think this would make Russia any stronger. I am quite sure it would not. There are certain forces trying to cause Russia and Ukraine to quarrel, but they haven't got much chance of that."

[Sokolov] In response to the question of what would happen if the issue of energy prices is not resolved at the forthcoming talks in Moscow, the prime minister gave a very decisive answer:

[Kuchma] "If I fail to come to an agreement on oil and gas prices, this would mean openly admitting that an economic blockade of Ukraine by Russia is taking place."

[Sokolov] Leonid Kuchma made a very interesting and important statement at the news conference:

[Kuchma] "We are flying to Surgut tomorrow, where the prime ministers of all [former USSR] states have been invited, including the Baltics. The point in question is the establishment of an organization similar to OPEC. The production of oil in Russia is dropping, and if its neighbors rudely accuse Russia of not wanting to give oil to someone or another, this wouldn't be true. We must take part in developing Russian oil and gas deposits on an equal basis. To get something, we must put something into them."

[Sokolov] On the whole, Leonid Kuchma expressed his great satisfaction with the results of his trip to the Central Asian member countries of the CIS.

Kuchma on Central Asian Tour

LD2702161593 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1343 GMT 27 Feb 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Anatoliy Grigorev]

[Text] Kiev, 27 Feb—"To restore ruined economic ties was the task we presented ourselves, and I think that we managed it," Prime Minister of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma stated at a news conference here today. The news conference dealt with the results of a governmental delegation's visit to Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan.

The tour once again testified to the fact that returning to the former USSR states was unreal, Leonid Kuchma, who was head of the delegation, said. This is understood by all the leaders of the former USSR countries with whom we met and talked. They stand for close economic integration. Today the economy of any republic of the former USSR cannot exist without Russia, stressed the head of the Ukrainian Government. He also commented critically on the forces in Russia that are trying to exert pressure by way of raising prices of energy. The idea of selling oil and gas at world prices is alien. It is not our policy. It is destructive to the single economic space, Leonid Kuchma said.

He expressed the hope that the forthcoming meeting between the heads of government of the former USSR in Surgut will make it possible to come to an optimal resolution on this issue.

Further on Kuchma News Conference

OW2702174293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1716 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Kuchma gave an evasive answer to a question about the debts and assets of the former Soviet Union, merely saying that he and Chernomyrdin would take up the matter later at their future talks.

"By charging each other world prices we shall destroy the economic area which existed within the territory of the former Soviet Union," he said, adding that the use of world prices in the Soviet Union's trade with Comecon countries ruined the East European economic area.

Kuchma said restoration of severed economic links had been the main purpose of his recent visits to the Central Asian republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States. He said clearing accounts remained the main form of payments between Ukraine and Central Asian countries. Ukraine would be providing them with engineering industry goods and agricultural produce in exchange for energy and some other commodities.

The Premier said Ukraine was considering the introduction of its own currency, the hryvnya, as early as this year.

However, the republic needed a stabilization fund of some $2 Bn [billion] for this, he said.

He advocated putting into operation the uncompleted generating units at the Zaporozhye and Rovno nuclear power plants "if they meet the requirements of the International Atomic Energy Agency." The Ukrainian parliament earlier declared a moratorium on the commissioning of the units.

Speaking about the Donets Basin coal miners' strike, Kuchma said the government was not going to discuss wage increases with the trade unions.

'New Level' of Ties With Central Asian States Noted

LD2602125093 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] The government delegation of Ukraine, headed by Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma, returned to Kiev on 25 February. The delegation visited Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan. Members of the delegation had numerous meetings and talks with the leaders of these states. The result of the week-long trip was the signing of a whole package of intergovernmental agreements and accords.

According to Yeorgiy Kosykh, deputy director of the press service of the Cabinet of Ministers, these documents create a reliable basis for a qualitatively new level of relations between Ukraine and states of the Central Asian region. Specifically, it is about our participation in implementing oil and gas projects, participation in transport communication, mutual deliveries of equipment for leading industries, and also in the production of consumer goods.

Russian Gas Delivery Situation Said 'Critical'

PM2602162793 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 24 Feb 93

[By Yana Bykovskaya; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Bykovskaya] The Russo-Ukrainian oil and gas conflict is now into its third year since the formation of the CIS. The result of mutual complaints, Russian boycotts, and Ukrainian nonpayments is that the gas situation has become critical today. Ukraine owes colossal arrears—168 billion rubles [R]—on the one hand, while, on the other hand, it is impossible to stop gas shipments across this republic's territory since we do not at the moment have any other means of transporting Russian gas to Europe. A Ukrainian delegation came to Moscow Tuesday to resolve these conflicts. So far it is only known that the leadership of "Ukrgazprom" has informed Russia's "Gazprom" of the first payment of R27 billion to wipe out the debts.

Kravchuk Discusses Fuel Arrangements

OW2602171593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1601 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Without centralized management we will not be able to carry the reforms through, President Leonid Kravchuk told a meeting of district administrators in Kiev. He is convinced that to control the situation in the economy, the government must in a near future "take over the control of incomes, prices, credits, and settlements." He added that "The automatic action of legal acts and market mechanisms alone cannot be trusted." On the other hand, he said that the government must not obstruct production processes or mutually beneficial links between Ukrainian businesses with CIS partners.

Supplies of oil and gas from Russia have moved to the top of the Ukrainian leadership's agenda, he added. He emphasized that he attended to that problem every day, "for Ukraine's national security depends on its solution."

Kravchuk said that Ukraine wants to have "a package of documents on the amounts to be supplied, prices, ways to repay the debts, and the sequence of mutual settlements."

"We will have to raise the money and pay up," said the Ukrainian president but added that "settlements must be reached on a mutually beneficial basis."

On Friday [26 February], the Ukrainian President started a two-day trip to Hungary.

Activities of Trade Missions Abroad Suspended

LD2702205693 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] The plenary powers of all the legal entities and individuals that represented the trade interests of Ukraine abroad have been suspended. These powers were conferred on them by the former Ministry of External Economic Relations and Trade. To avoid confusion over names, please note that the currently existing ministry—the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations—has a different name, without the word trade in it.

The suspension of plenary powers is covered in a letter from this ministry sent to the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to all Ukrainian embassies abroad. From now on, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations will manage the activity of all Ukrainian trade missions abroad, according to a resolution by the government.

National Affairs

National Security Council Discusses State Border

LD2602162593 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1931 GMT 25 Feb 93

[Text] The press service of the president of Ukraine reports that the National Security Council met today, chaired by L.M. Kravchuk, at which problems of ensuring the regime of Ukraine's state border were examined. A wide range of practical issues of the procedure for establishing Ukraine's state border, and of implementing it in accordance with domestic and international legal regulations were discussed. At the same time attention was paid to the need to implement the principle of territorial integrity within those borders, which defined the territory of Ukraine at the moment of the break-up of the USSR.

The National Security Council considered it to be expedient to elaborate a composite program of constructing Ukraine's state border. Such a program must, in particular, include issues of drawing it up lawfully, improving domestic legislation, concluding relevant agreements with contiguous countries, developing a system of check points, and also establishing material and technical provision for border troops and all services involved in supporting the regime of Ukraine's state border.

Security Official Warns Danger of Brain Drain

LD2802132593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] The position of our state's leadership is that investment is necessary and much needed.

However, there have also appeared serious misgivings about attempts by certain state structures, leading scientific centers, and private firms of the West to use the widening opportunities of business contacts with Ukraine to their unilateral advantage by using our state's intellectual potential and scientific and technological achievements.

This was stated by (Anatoliy Sakhno), head of the Ukraine Security Service's press center, in the newspaper DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA.

In particular, he warned that the potential scientific brain drain to the West could move us closer to new Chernobyl-type accidents. The security service representative believes that all legislative and state structures need to step up the enactment of standard laws on the protection of intellectual property, commercial secrets, and priority intelligence.

Defense Minister Morozov Explains Dismissals

LD2702220693 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] In an interview with a correspondent, Ukrainian Minister of Defense Konstyantyn Morozov has explained the reasons which led to key personnel changes at his department. In particular, the dismissal of (Stepanov), commander of the Transcarpathian Military District troops, was explained by the minister by the former's inability to establish proper control and to put an end to arms looting.

As for the dismissal of Ivan Oliynyk, chief of armaments for the Ukrainian Armed Forces, from his office, the minister said that this was done after an administrative investigation, during the course of which numerous breaches of the current legislation of Ukraine, both by the chief of armaments himself and by some of his subordinates, were detected.

Defense Ministry Denies Report on Shaposhnikov Visit

LD2602182593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] On 25 February, the press service of the Defense Ministry of Ukraine denied a report from the Rukh secretariat's information department that Aviation Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the Joint Armed Forces of the CIS, visited Vinnitsa Oblast unofficially. At the same time the press service emphasizes that the headquarters of the Air Army of Ukraine, which Shaposhnikov supposedly visited according to the Rukh assertion, is not located in Vinnitsa. The headquarters of the aviation command of the National Air Force is deployed on a hill in the oblast center of Vinnitsa. The press service also points out that visits at such a level cannot be carried out privately. It is compulsory for them to be coordinated with the relevant state structures of Ukraine, as well as with Defense Minister Kostyantyn Morozov.

Transport Strike End Seen as Victory for Government

PM2602164593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Feb 93 p 1

[Sergey Tsikora report: "Ukrainian Government Insisted on Having Its Way. Kiev Transport Workers' Strike Has Ended"]

[Text] Kiev—Streetcars and trolleybuses have resumed operations in Kiev. Transport workers have lost their strike. The authorities refused totally to discuss their main demand—10 times the minimum wage per month, which, with allowances, would have amounted to 40,000-90,000 karbovanets—and called this money grubbing.

And yet this strike can be called very instructive. It was noteworthy, above all, in that the government finally showed its character. For the first time a conflict between the authorities and the workers has not, in principle, been settled "quietly" but has been taken as far as a court investigation. The court is faced with deciding on the legality or illegality of the drivers' stopping work.

I will remind you that streetcars and trolleybuses were idle in Kiev for a week. The city with 3 million inhabitants had a hard time during those days. The local authorities had even to resort to the assistance of civil defense. Hundreds of buses belonging to enterprises and the army were mobilized to convey passengers.

The local press reported terrible details of the way Kiev residents got to work and returned home during those days. There was a tragic case when someone was crushed inside a passenger compartment. Kiev enterprises incurred losses running to millions because masses of people were late for work. But the republic government and the city administration withstood the blackmail by 2,000 drivers of electric means of transport.

Kiev streetcar and trolleybus drivers felt at the end of last week the seriousness of the authorities' intentions, for the latter declared that they had learned well the lessons of the miners' strike of 1991-1992 and this time there would be no capitulation. The Ukrainian prime minister signed a directive calling up drivers of electric means of transport in all the republic's cities for a two-month military training course. On Monday 22 February hundreds of mobilized drivers were brought to Kiev. At the same time a directive by the president's representative in the Ukrainian capital abolished the streetcar and trolleybus administration. After that each striking enterprise had to champion its demands on its own. It was then that the strikers' main miscalculation came to light—it turned out that the workers' collectives of not one depot or pool had adopted a decision to stop work. From the viewpoint of the law this strike was altogether "wild."

The court will assess what happened. The two sides involved in the conflict have been summoned to its first session 25 February. In the morning I was told at the city administration that operations have been resumed on all the streetcar and trolleybus routes.

Government Makes Claims To Fulfill Oil Demands in 1993

OW2502171393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 25 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian government maintains that it will obtain the required 40 Mn [million] tons of crude oil this year through the agreements Kiev is about to conclude with foreign oil suppliers in the near future. Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Pynzenyk made this announcement on Thursday [25 February] at a meeting with Ukrainian producers in Kiev.

The participants of the meeting also addressed possible measures Ukraine could resort to if Russia curtailed its natural gas supplies. As an option, they considered possibilities for transferring the Ukrainian enterprises to the use of other kinds of fuel, such as fuel oil and coal powder.

In touching on the current situation in the Ukrainian economy, Mr Pynzenyk said the government has succeeded in balancing the cash in circulation in the republic with the available merchandise on sale, bringing the rate of inflation to 30-40% a month. In December, 1992, the level of inflation in Ukraine topped 50%.

Government Issues Directive on Sale of Motor Fuels

OW0103120893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1100 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The government of Ukraine has prohibited as of 1 March the sale of combustible fuel from state supplies to the owners of private cars. The measure was dictated by the need to guarantee a supply of fuel to spring agricultural producers during the country's worsening fuel shortage.

Regional and city administrators have been directed to devote not less than 80% of gasoline and diesel fuel to the countryside, and to use the remainder for the needs of the cities.

Ukraine's yearly demand for oil is 45 million tons. Russia has agreed to deliver roughly 15 million tons this year.

As expected, the question of Russian oil deliveries to Ukraine will be discussed in Surgut (Tyumen oblast) at the coming meeting between Ukrainian Leonid Kuchma with Russian Vice-President Georgiy Khizha [title as received] and Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik.

Independent News Agency UNIAN Begins Work

WS2602091593 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 16 Feb 93 p 4

[Article by Larysa Ruda: "The Site of Meetings Remains Unchanged—Khreshchatyk, 4"]

[Excerpts] Mass media—this is how the press, the radio, and the television in the world are referred to. The office of the former Ukrainian branch of APN at Khreshchatyk, 4, equipped for the needs of journalists, at which the Ukrainian Independent Information News Agency (UNIAN) started its work earlier this year, has become the mass media center of Kiev.

The National Press Club was created here earlier. Along with UNIAN they have established a totally new (for us, of course) information structure, not resembling the communist monsters of the past—the so called "press enterprises" and "state television and radio committees." [passage omitted]

Volodymyr Ruban, UNIAN's chief editor, chairman of the National Press Club Council, and former MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI Ukrainian correspondent, says: "The harder the goal is to achieve, the better chance we have of achieving it."

The founders of the agency are: the Ukrainian Journalists Society, the "Prosvita", and the Lawyers Society. It seems that UNIAN will not only produce radio, video and published materials, but also become a real mass media center of highest world standards. The press club will take care of the contacts of native reporters with their foreign partners at press conferences, meetings, "round tables", and seminars. It will release various reference materials, create a library of Ukrainian and foreign publications, and a computer data bank—everything that a reporter needs for his work. The agency's television service has been producing and distributing its own programs, films, commercials, and the like. UNIAN's observers will soon start sending their first information bulletins to newspapers.

Kiev Communists Seek Renewal of Activity

LD2602191493 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] A conference of Communists, members of the Communist Party of Kiev and the Kiev Oblast, in which delegates from nearly all rayons of Kiev Oblast took part, has taken place in Kiev. The report of the initiative organization committee was heard out and practical tasks of renewing the activity of Communists, members of the Communist Party of Ukraine, were examined. It was emphasized that the renewal of the activity of Communists is taking place in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations on 10 December 1948, and also in accordance with Article 49 of the Constitution of Ukraine and the law of Ukraine on association of citizens.

Christian Democratic Party Welcomes Ex-Communists

LD2802180693 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] According to Vitaliy Zhuravskiy, head of the Christian Democratic Party of Ukraine, the party's supreme council today adopted an appeal to former members of the Communist Party of Ukraine [CPU]. It states in particular that Christian Democrats condemn the theory and practice of the communist structure and its leaders. The CPU, which was always an imperial force, drew into its ranks many gifted and talented people who on the whole were not involved in the crimes of the communist party. Christian Democrats will cooperate with them, so long as they are actively involved in building an independent, democratic, and law-governed Ukraine. The Christian Democratic Party is prepared to reinforce its ranks with such people and is already doing so. The party complies with the principles of the Christian ideology.

Belarus

Armed Forces Chief of Staff News Conference Viewed

MK2602171893 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Feb 93 p 3

[Igor Sinyakevich report: "Everything Is In Order With the Nuclear Missiles"]

[Text] Major General Nikolay Churkin, chief of staff of the Belarusian Army, held a press conference on the results of his visit to the NATO headquarters. "The NATO leadership is negatively disposed toward the idea of new members joining the North Atlantic alliance, because that could arouse the concern of the neighboring states," Nikolay Churkin stated. He also said that the NATO leadership was not worried about military-political rapprochement between Belarus and Russia. The chief of staff stated that the Belarusian military leadership was not seriously concerned over the security of nuclear missiles on the republic's territory, because those missiles were the most modern and had a high degree of reliability. He noted that the nuclear forces are under Russia's juridisdiction and that Russia itself performs all the scheduled maintenance and technical servicing operations. On Russia's part, Churkin said, there is an understanding of the need for Belarusian Defense Ministry control [kontrol] of the nuclear forces on republic territory. Joint inspections had also confirmed that there is no particular cause for concern over the nuclear missiles' security.

Asked about covert operations [agenturnaya rabota] by Belarusian military intelligence in Europe, General Churkin said: "Military intelligence deals with a wide spectrum of problems, among which covert operations constitute only a tiny proportion. I believe that the activities of all our military structures should be aimed at ensuring security." The general was also asked whether the Belarusian Army intended buying weapons in other countries aside from the CIS. He replied that he did not exclude that possibility but so far did not see a need for it, and he reaffirmed that Belarus was developing its own small arms of the Israeli Uzi assault rifle type and that these weapons would be produced not for export but primarily for its own needs. Responding to a question as to whether the Defense Ministry was conducting any systematic work to lessen military-technical dependence on Russia, Nikolay Churkin stated that virtually all types of military specialist could now be trained in Belarus. In particular, military pilots will be trained at the Civil Aviation College. As for dependence in terms of spare parts and military hardware, it could hardly be overcome in the near term. Furthermore the Belarusian Armed Forces Chief of Staff said that Belarusian military-technical dependence on Russia was also due to its economic dependence, for example, on fuel and energy supplies. In answer to a question about which models of tank were liable to reduction under the Treaty on the Reduction of Conventional Forces in Europe Nikolay Churkin said: "We are destroying T-62 tanks, and we now have the opportunity to equip the army with tanks of a single type—T-72s."

Shushkevich Adviser Objects to Army Politicization

OW2602164393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1557 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The parliamentary National Security, Law and Crime Fighting Commission has backed the proposal made by the defense minister that the next session of the country's Supreme Soviet debate a bill banning the participation of servicemen in the activities of parties and political movements. Mechislav Gryb, the commission chairman and chief advisor of the parliament chairman on defense matters, said in an Interfax interview: "I share the concern expressed by Colonel General Pavel Kozlovsky over the future of the country's armed forces and think that a ban must be imposed on servicemen sharing in the activities of any organizations which pursue political goals."

Gryb also admitted the existence of a political opposition in the army, the Belarusian Union of Servicemen (BUS), which wants to Belarussify the army, in particular to have only ethnic Belarusians in high places. The National Security Commission Chairman is also concerned with the intention of the leaders of the reviving Communist Party of Belarus (CPB) to restore lists of its members in the army. "If the BUS and CPB members in army units start settling their accounts, the troops will abandon the service and attend rallies and marchers instead," Gryb thinks.

New Institute of Security, Development Viewed

WS2602145093 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1124 GMT 25 Feb 93

[Text] Belarus has more than enough directions for further development. Which of them should be chosen or given preference? A Belarusian Institute of Development and Security Prospects which has been recently registered by the Ministry of Justice is going to give a due response. According to its organizers, the new institute does not confine itself only to this task.

"We must not only help our state officials choose a way for further development but we must also make it more secure," said Vladimir Baryshevskiy, leader of the new non-state formation and director of the Nuclear Problem Institute. "To this end, we must take into account a number of political and economic aspects. It is necessary to ensure control over the export of dangerous materials and promote Belarus' movement along its chosen path to neutrality."

Allies who have united to defend Belarus' security interests began their activities with working out a package of definite proposals to implement the law on the reduction of the Soviet nuclear threat prepared by U.S. Senators Sam Nunn and Richard Lugar.

Ukraine Border Talks Under Way; 'No Steel Curtain' Seen

WS2602133293 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1100 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] No steel curtain exists between Belarus and Ukraine, chairmen of the Belarusian and Ukrainian delegations to the talks over the demarcation of Belarusian-Ukrainian border said to journalists at their joint press conference. Both parties stressed that the border will not prevent people from traveling freely.

Agreement With Russia Aims for Stable Economic Relations

LD2602205593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1733 GMT 26 Feb 93

[By BELINFORM correspondent Larisa Lazar for TASS]

[Text] Minsk February 26 TASS—An agreement on 1993 trade and economic cooperation signed by the Belarusian and Russian Governments aims at the consolidation of well-adjusted relations and provision of stable work of economic branches.

Sources at the Republican State Economic Planning Committee told BELINFORM, it is based on principles of equality and mutual benefit and is achieved through conclusion of agreements between state and territorial bodies of the two states.

The document provides for mutual delivery of major product types. A special attention is given to the fuel and energy complex. Under the agreement, quotas on mutual delivery of products are not obligatory as they only establish the maximum level of exports.

The only exception is products delivered for state needs through the federal Roskontrakt Contract Corporation on interrelated clearing basis, guaranteed by the government. Each of the sides will purchase products of enterprises-suppliers at its market at domestic prices and supply it to each other on a tax-free basis.

For instance, 11.4 million tonnes of oil, 50,000 tonnes of liquefied gas, 160,000 tonnes of steel pipes, 30,000 tonnes of caustic soda, 15,000 tonnes of synthetic rubber and fish and other products will be supplied through Roskontrakt for the Belarusian state needs.

On its part, Belarus has taken an obligation to send 300,000 tonnes of jet engine fuel, 136,000 tonnes of potassic fertilizers, 23,000 tractors, 9,200 trucks, 100,000 tonnes of meat and consumer goods to Russia.

Moldova

President Snegur Repeats Warning of Coup d'Etat

AU2702163593 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 24 Feb 93 p 10

[Svitlana Chala commentary: "A Coup Cannot Be Ruled Out"]

[Text] **Moldovan President M. Snegur has declared for the second time that, in his opinion, a coup d'etat is being prepared. The first time, he shared his fears with agrarians who recently held their congress. M. Snegur did not refer to any available information, but rather his own intuition.**

The grounds for such a serious revelation was provided by the picketing of the presidential residence organized by adherents of the Popular Front. The determined people tried to storm the building, but were stopped by the police. As a result of the clash, several policemen were wounded.

The main accusations voiced by members of the Popular Front against the president were as follows: a turn toward the CIS in the political course and the failure by the Snegur team to adopt the idea of an immediate union with Romania.

M. Snegur blamed a possible coup on leaders of the Front, having in mind those of its leaders who were recently forced to leave major positions at the Presidium of the Moldovan parliament. The president looks for support in rural regions. Over the past two weeks, he held many meetings with villagers from provinces. Judging by the results of sociological studies conducted by the Moldovan Academy of Sciences, M. Snegur still enjoys confidence there. The president's rating among the rural population is much higher than that of the rest of Moldovan political figures.

Opposition Attempting To Destabilize Situation

OW2602180893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Mircea Snegur has accused the opposition of attempting to destabilize the political situation in a speech to a nationwide teachers' conference Friday [26 February]. He said that certain circles had responded to street demonstrations and other destructive action with an appeal for the president to put the declaration on the republic's independence into effect.

After describing these actions as inadmissible Snegur again called for all "progressive movements in society" to cooperate for the sake of establishing "unshakeable civic peace and accord in Moldova."

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The opposition, in the form of the Christian Democratic People's Front, which is in favor of unification with Romania, has stepped up criticism of the leadership after the resignation of Alexandru Mosanu, the former speaker and Snegur's main political rival. Mosanu was replaced by Petru Lucinschi, who has declared his readiness for constructive dialogue with the president.

Snegur for the first time criticized educational reform at the teachers' conference. He said that this was blindly imitating the Romanian model and that of other Western nations. He said that it would be necessary for the republic to develop its "own educational system." The basis of such a system, Snegur was convinced, must be the idea of the building of an independent, sovereign Moldovan state.

Official Accuses Tiraspol of Frustrating Talks in Bendery

OW2602220293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1931 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Another round of talks, expected to take place in Bendery on Friday [26 February], on a settlement of the conflict in Trans-Dniester between commissions representing the leaders of Moldova and Trans-Dniester failed to take place. An adviser to the Moldovan President, Nicolae Kirtaoke accused Trans-Dniester of frustrating the negotiations. He said that the negotiators failed to show up at the meeting in Bendery without an early notice.

Kirtoake said that in Tiraspol certain circles continued to insist that the main principles of a settlement of the conflict and a special status of the region should be preliminary approved by the parliament of the self-declared Trans-Dniester republic and discussed by the commissions only after that. The Moldovan President's adviser said that this line of action may block the negotiations on a settlement in Trans-Dniester.

Dniester Vice President Discusses Regional Issues

AU0103081293 Bucharest ADEVARUL in Romanian 22 Feb 93 p

[Interview with Alexandru Caraman, vice president of the Dniester Autonomous Republic, by Constantin Lupu and Peter Sragher; place and date not given: "Any Man Can Turn Any City Into Any Country—(With a Foreign Army Behind Him)"]

[Excerpts] [ADEVARUL] How did you make the transition from the status of a physician to that of a politician?

[Caraman] Everyone is involved in politics today, even priests. [passage omitted] Moldovans make up 40 percent of the population in the Dniester Moldovan Republic. [passage omitted] Even if we actually speak the same language, the Moldovans in Bessarabia are different from the Moldovans in Romania, just as the Moldovans on the left bank of the Dniester River are different from those on the right bank.

[ADEVARUL] You and the leadership in Tiraspol have affirmed that the dialogue has been undermined by the former leadership of the parliament in Chisinau. Do you now think that the dialogue is going to be resumed?

[Caraman] There is a saying that history repeats itself. The first time it was a tragedy, the second time a farce. It is a matter of viewpoints. The most interesting thing is that the first conciliation commission on behalf of Moldova in 1989 was headed by Petru Lucinschi, the current parliamentary president. That commission was not successful at all. No one wanted so much as to listen to us or to understand what we wanted. Our first requests had no political undercurrent or idea. We just wanted to have an economically free zone because the light and heavy industries and agriculture in this region are much more developed than in the rest of Moldova. All revenues were taken by Chisinau, while we received only 16 or 17 percent of everything we earned here. In 1989 we wanted an economically free zone. This was categorically denied us. And we were labelled "separatists." But, with the passing of time, if a request is ignored, then others emerge. However, Chisinau's policy was just marking time. The first political demands were made. We proposed an autonomous republic within the composition of Moldova. The way we were before. They did not want any kind of dialogue. We got nothing else, just negative answers. Well, if you don't want it, that's another matter! Then the arrest of deputies began, grenades were thrown, and there were the first casualties in Dubassary in 1990 when the Moldovan police attacked the city. How much more patience can one have? If you don't want this, then we will create another republic: the Dniester Moldovan Republic. There was a referendum, there were elections, the deputies to the supreme soviet were elected, and the government was elected. Today we are a state even if we are not recognized de jure. Actually, we have been recognized by numerous former Soviet republics and by regions. We have our own supreme soviet made up of the Chamber of the Republic and the Chamber of Nationalities. We have a government, armed forces, and we have our own militia, courts, prosecutor's office, budget, and financial system. We have everything that is needed for any state. And for the past two years, we have been living in our own region, on our own budget, and we have no quarrel with anyone. We maintain trade relations with Russia and Ukraine, and last year we signed a number of treaties with numerous regions in Russia—Chelyabinsk, Magnitogorsk, Omsk, Tomsk, the Komi Republic, the Republic of Crimea, the Gagauz region, and Abkhazia. We believe that if Moldova comes a little bit too late—because it always is at least half a year late—it will leave empty-handed.

[ADEVARUL] What do you actually want?

[Caraman] We want to have such a political status as to have guarantees that no changes will take place, regardless of the changes in the leadership of Moldova. What we want is guarantees, irrespective of who is at the helm—Lucinschi, Mosanu, Hadarca, or Puscasu. We want rights that permit us to live, to function, to have peace, and not to struggle with anyone. The reunification with Romania is something that concerns the population in Bessarabia if they desire it. As for the 14th Army, it is deployed on our territory. And I believe—and this is actually our condition—that any negotiations on the terms and means of the evacuation of the 14th Army should take place only if we participate as well. This is a guarantee for us, and hence a guarantee for this region.

[ADEVARUL] What would happen if the 14th Army withdrew?

[Caraman] It depends on the way it withdrew. For 70 years we were part of the Soviet Union, we transferred certain sums of money to the state budget, and we also participated in building the Soviet Army. Thus, we are also entitled to that little part of the Soviet Army.

[ADEVARUL] Do you think that maybe it would have been better to preserve the union... In your view, what happened in August 1991?

[Caraman] Well, the so-called putsch. What was its main problem and goal? To demoralize key ministries—the Ministries of Defense, Security... And then, one and half months later and without a drop of blood shed, the former union... Yes, it was staged. What was pursued was that the leadership of the Dniester Moldovan Republic, which firmly holds its position of an independent and sovereign state, be dismembered and destroyed.

[ADEVARUL] In connection with the trial of the five, do you know what the main charges are, which were brought against them by the Prosecutor's Office?

[Caraman] That is no secret. It is a group of terrorists. Terrorism is accused throughout the world. We stood witness to the fact that, because of two terrorists, economic, political, and even military sanctions were imposed against small Libya. In Moldova, terrorism has been raised to the level of state policy. This group of terrorists was trained by the Ministry of National Security and the Ministry of Interior. They received money, weapons, and so forth. And this is why it is not very convenient for Moldova that this trial be an open trial; and especially that this trial takes place.

[ADEVARUL] Do you continue to believe in communism?

[Caraman] You know, for too long, maybe, you and we learned such -isms like a poem. I believe that it would not be correct today to say that we are building capitalism, communism, democratism, or something else. We want to build a normal state based on law. People should find it easy to live. It would be a socialism similar to that in Sweden.

[ADEVARUL] We note that with you, symbols, which have disappeared throughout the former Soviet Union, are being preserved. What do Lenin, the hammer and sickle, or the red star mean to you? ...

[Caraman] You know, each symbol expresses the idea that is the product of that symbol. We do not see anything wrong in the symbol of the hammer and sickle, which stands for the unity of the working class and the peasantry.

The hammer is a working tool, and that is good. However, a hammer may be used to hit someone on the head; thus, it is a bad symbol. One could say that a sickle helps to harvest grain, but one can also cut someone. It depends on who is looking at these symbols. We believe that this is history; it is our history.

If the level of democracy of a state may be judged on the basis of destroyed monuments, then we are indeed lagging a bit behind. We have left all of them as they were.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Establishes National Aerospace Agency

LD2702085693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] By decree of the president of Kazakhstan, the republican space research agency has been reformed into the National Aerospace Agency under the Cabinet of Ministers [Natsionalnoye aerokosmicheskoye agentstvo pri Kabinete Ministrov]. Lieutenant General Toktar Aubakirov, 41, a cosmonaut and Hero of the Soviet Union, has been appointed its director general. Until recently, he was Kazakhstan's first deputy defense minister.

National Nuclear Center To Be Created

PM2602152393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Feb 93 p 2

[Oleg Stefashin report: "National Nuclear Center Created in Kazakhstan"]

[Text] Karaganda—As a Kazakhstan Cabinet of Ministers decree notes, the center's activities will first and foremost be aimed at studying and introducing in the republic methods in nuclear physics and nuclear technology, increasing nuclear power installations' reliability, and training personnel in the field of nuclear science and industry.

It is supposed that, in addition to the Kazakhstan Academy of Sciences Institute of Atomic Physics and a number of specialized enterprises, the former Semipalatinsk testing range together with the scientific research complex being created there for defense programs, as well as an engineering and physics institute and a regional treatment and diagnostic center to be set up in the near future, will become part of the national center. Gadlet Batyrbekov has been appointed the center's leader.

Kyrgyzstan

President Akayev Talks With Azerbaijani Prime Minister

OW2602165593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1558 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Askar Akayev at talks with acting Azerbaijani Prime Minister Ali Masimom has reconfirmed Kyrgyzstan's position on a settlement of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. "The two sides must be guided by international practice, territorial indivisibility and integrity and the inviolability of borders," he stressed.

The head of state also said that he fully supported Baku's attempts to develop bilateral relations with a view to making these long term. He was of the view that Azerbaijan, in contrast to other former Soviet republics, had the best chance of solving its economic crisis. The quicker Azerbaijan ended its war commitment, Akayev considered, the quicker its economy would develop.

Akayev emphasized the importance of Azerbaijan increasing collaboration with the regions of Central Asia in view of their common cultural, historical, linguistic and religious roots. The president also remarked on the position shared by Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan on establishing friendly relations with all former Soviet republics.

Talks in Bishkek between Kyrgyz Prime Minister Tursunbek Chyngyshev and his Azerbaijani counterpart resulted in the signing of a trade cooperation agreement between both governments for 1993 on Thursday [25 February]. Agreements were also signed on education, healthcare, culture, tourism, the procedure for setting up joint enterprises and joint stock companies.

A number of agreements between departments on liaison in the field of customs were signed together with a protocol between the republic's national banks on technical credit for 1993.

Regarding possible cooperation between the two sides in oil refining and production Chyngyshev told Interfax that agreements signed did not oblige Azerbaijan to supply oil products this year or equipment and machinery for Kyrgyzstan's oil producing enterprises. The prime minister said that work on prospecting for and drilling oil deposits in the republic was promising.

Prime Minister 'Satisfied' With Europe Trip

OW2602165093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1558 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Prime Minister Tursunbek Chyngyshev has said that "Europe was displaying great interest in maintaining political and ethnic stability in Kyrgyzstan." While conveying his favorable impressions of his ten-day visit to Western Europe the premier emphasized that the visit had great significance for Kyrgyzstan's integration into the European economic system. It would enable ties with international organizations and European Community institutions to be strengthened.

The prime minister gave journalists an account of meetings in the European Parliament, the EC Commission, the Board of Directors of the EBRD, and with British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd. He said that Europe was favorable towards Kyrgyzstan's readiness to implement its economic reform program which had IMF and

World Bank backing. He also stressed that the republic acknowledged the European model for democratic growth and rejected the authoritarian option.

Chyngyshev said that the concrete results of the visit included an agreement on Kyrgyzstan taking part in the European Parliament in the capacity of observer, and on cooperation with the European Communities' Commission. The latter would serve mainly as a guarantee for the granting of EC credit to Kyrgyzstan and technical assistance for small and medium businesses. The prime minister said that the EBRD was currently drafting a document on its strategy with regard to Kyrgyzstan.

Chyngyshev also announced that there were plans for the foundation of an international investment bank in Bishkek with the participation of the British banks, including Rothschildbank. He said that bankers had backed the idea of financing specific projects concerning mining, agriculture and small business after the production of the appropriate documentation. A joint German/Kyrgyz information trade center would be opened in Germany, he continued, which would subsequently be linked up to the EC Commission information network.

Government Recognizes Former Yugoslav Republics

LD2602162493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1326 GMT 26 Feb 93

[By KYRGYZKABAR correspondent Natalia Voroshilova for TASS]

[Text] Bishkek February 26 TASS—Kyrgyzstan has officially recognised the independence of republics of Slovenia, Macedonia, Bosnia-Hercegovina, Croatia.

Decrees issued to this effect by Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev on Friday [26 February] say that this move was made taking into account a free will of the people of the above-mentioned republics to establish independent sovereign states.

The Kyrgyz Foreign Ministry was instructed to hold talks with representatives of these republics for the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Tajikistan

'Rumors' Allege Opposition Attack on Dushanbe

LD2602155593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1452 GMT 26 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Dushanbe February 26 TASS—Tajik authorities have been assuring their compatriots that rumours alleging that anti-government troops are expected to break into the Tajik capital on March 5 are of a provocative character.

However, intensive operations conducted by government forces and law-enforcement bodies in the capital show that the government is not ruling out this possibility. Reinforced guard posts appeared in the streets of the capital. Areas through which the opposition forces are expected to break into the city have been blocked by armoured units of government troops.

An overall passport control is being exercised in residential ares of Dushanbe. A well-informed government official said that "these are preventive measures aimed at ruling out the slightest possibility of destabilising the socio-political situation in the Tajik capital."

As for the situation in Pamir regions and the Ramit Gorge, the Tajik National Security Committee told TASS that government troops are continuing successful operations to neutralise separate armed formations scattered in mountainous regions.

Another optimistic statement was made that the main forces of the opposition had been defeated and that further resistance of the remaining formations was pointless. However, one of the close associates of the resistance movement led by field commander Rizvon said that "it is too early yet for the present Tajik regime to celebrate its victory."

Spokesman Warns Against Attacks From Afghanistan

OW2602171193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The government controls the situation in the Garm valley, one major pocket of resistance has been nearly destroyed, Abdulmajid Dostiyev, deputy parliament chairman told Interfax [IF] in an exclusive interview.

He said that the opposition did not have more than 100 to 120 fighters there. Once they lost the district centers in the Garm valley, reinforcements from northern Afghanistan cannot reach the opponents of the regime. In a near future, Dostiyev said, as soon as the weather improves and aircraft can fly, battalions from Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan will arrive to guard the Khorog area of Tajikistan's border with Afghanistan, as agreed at the Minsk CIS summit on January 22.

In Khorog itself (a border district center in the south of the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomy in the Pamirs—IF), the deputy speaker says, there are about 100 opposition fighters of whom 40 are bodyguards of Abdarsho Iskandarov, former leader of the country. (Now Iskandarov chairs the Gorno-Badakhshan regional council—IF).

Dostiyev noted that a government commission which studied the situation in the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomy had come to a conclusion that Iskandarov was insincere, for "he says that he supports the legal leadership of the country but assembles armed supporters around himself." The deputy speaker said that the Tajik government had decided to invite Iskandarov to Dushanbe in order to work out a settlement between the center and the autonomy. "The Cabinet wants a peaceful solution to the situation and is unwilling to move troops into the Pamir area," he insisted.

He said that "Tajikistan has its own air force, including combat helicopters and MiG jets in numbers sufficient to protect our independence." Asked where his government acquires military hardware, Dostiyev replied: "This is our internal affair." He made it clear that to beat off an attack from Afghanistan, Tajikistan will use its air force unit which is stationed in Termez.

According to the speaker, those in Afghanistan who may prepare an attack "have been warned that if a single shell is fired at us the entire battery will be destroyed." Dostiyev also said that the government is stepping up efforts to have the refugees return from Afghanistan. He showed letters about opposition fighters obstructing the return. The deputy speaker confirmed that as soon as he can he and Sangak Safarov, Chairman of the Tajikistan Popular front, will fly to Afghanistan to guarantee safe return of the refugees. "We are aware of possible continuation of blood feuds when the refugees return and will do our best to prevent this," Dostiyev said. One step in this direction, he thinks, will be legalizing the Popular Front's units. He said that one field commander had submitted to the government a full list of his fighters who intend to continue serving in the National Security Committee, Security Ministry, and the army.

Village Shelled 25 Feb

OW2602191193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1650 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Two shots from anti-tank grenade launchers on the Tajik village of Khirmandzhon were fired from Afghanistan on Thursday [25 February]. On February 26 the headquarters of Russian border troops in Dushanbe told Interfax [IF] that a border troop detail was also fired upon on Thursday in the same area of the border. Fortunately, there were no casualties in either incident.

In an interview with Interfax, Deputy Chairman of the Tajik Parliament Abdulmajid Dostiyev said that if faced with the threat of an attack from Afghanistan, Tajikistan would, in accordance with a treaty on collective security, appeal for help from neighboring countries and "count on help from air forces stationed in Termez," (Uzbekistan—IF). Dostiyev said Tajikistan has its own air forces now as well.

The press center of the Tajik National Security Committee told Interfax that in the next few days divisions from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan should be arriving in the republic to protect the Tajik-Afghan border as a foreign border of the CIS. The decision to do so was reached at the meeting of CIS leaders in Minsk.

Russian Security Minister Arrives in Dushanbe

LD2702174993 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Today Viktor Barannikov, chairman of the Russian Federation Committee for Security, arrived in Dushanbe. The aim of his visit to our republic is to see the situation in the state borders. It is envisaged that he will meet with leaders of the republic and the border guards.

Visits Troops on Afghan Border

LD2702133493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0927 GMT 27 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vitaliy Gordiyenko]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Federation Security Minister Viktor Barannikov arrived in Tajikistan from Alma-Ata today. Anatoliy Kuptsov, first deputy chairman of the National Security Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan told an ITAR-TASS correspondent by telephone that immediately after arrival, Viktor Barannikov visited sub-units of the Russian border troops serving in Tajikistan. As reported earlier, the Russian minister acquainted himself with the operational situation on the Tajik-Afghan border with regard to material provisions and social and living conditions of Russian border guards.

According to the information received from the the Russian border troops command in Tajikistan, the situation on the border where Russian servicemen are fulfilling their duty, remains uneasy. Attempts to cross the border illegally continue in both directions. On Thursday [25 February] a border post in Khatlon oblast came under fire from Afghan territory. According to Major General Vitaliy Gritsan, commander of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan, within the framework of the Minsk agreements of the CIS countries, reinforcements from Uzbekistan have started to arrive to help strengthen security on the Tajik-Afghan border.

Border Guards Skirmish With Infiltrators on Afghan Border

OW0103121493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1101 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Saturday [27 February] and Sunday Russian border guard details were fired on from Afghanistan. The border guard press service says that the guards did not return the fire.

On Sunday a Khorog border guard unit patrol tried to apprehend two armed infiltrators from Afghanistan who opened fire. In the exchange one of them was killed and the other escaped into Afghanistan.

On Saturday five border guards of the Panj unit and 15 to 20 armed infiltrators from Afghanistan exchanged fire. The infiltrators were forced to retreat into Afghanistan leaving four automatic carbines, a grenade launcher, a sharpshooter rifle, a carbine, and munition. The border guards suffered no casualties.

Border Guards Stop Armed Groups From Crossing Border

LD0103100393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0928 GMT 1 Mar 93

[By KHOVAR correspondent Salokhiddin Ergashev for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe March 1 TASS—Over the past two days Tajik border guards have prevented several armed groups from crossing into Tajikistan from Afghanistan, a correspondent of the KHOVAR new agency learned at the commandment of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan.

Russian border guards had armed clashes with border trespassers three times in the direction of the Pyandzh region.

A total of 43 refugees were detained as they attempted to illegally return from Afghanistan.

Border guards had armed clashes with smugglers carrying drugs in the area of the Khorog border guard. Four smugglers were detained and two injured.

Government Troops Capture 120 Militants in Ramit Canyon

OW0103112893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1327 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajik government troops captured about 120 opposition militants in an operation conducted in Ramit Canyon north-east of Dushanbe. As IF [INTERFAX] learned from military sources in Dushanbe, investigators from the national security committee are now questioning the captives.

According to the same sources, the recent emergence of large numbers of military vehicles and soldiers in the streets of Dushanbe is a result of the end of military actions in Ramit Canyon, and the involvement of the military in an operation designed to confiscate weapons kept in Dushanbe illegally.

The Interior Ministry says that in the past 24 hours 4 submachineguns, 12 grenades and several hunting rifles have been confiscated in the city.

According to some reports, more than 20 thousand firearms are still kept by the local residents illegally.

Government Disarms Opposition; Success 'A Matter of Time'

OW2702173293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Military sources say that Tajik government forces are about to complete an offensive operation to the east of the national capital Dushanbe. Saturday [27 February] trench warfare was reported in the area between Tavildara and Komsomolabad where government forces were to have disarmed an opposition grouping whose both flanks they'd been threatening for several days. According to the military sources, destruction on highways impeded hardware advance.

Government forces are also exploiting success in the area between Garm and Tajikabad. According to some sources, the head of the Tajikabad government responsible for the creation of a local Islamic revolutionary council, has fled the republic to find refuge in the Kirghiz city of Osh.

Tajik military chiefs see the final success of the operations as a matter of time.

Commander Reassures Pamir Residents About CIS Forces

LD2702233093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1046 GMT 27 Feb 93

[By TIA "KHOVAR" correspondent Sadonsho Nafass[illegible]vev and Valeriy Zhukov for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe, 27 Feb—The news that CIS peacekeeping forces are to arrive in Pamir shortly should not cause anxiety among the residents of the mountain area. Lieutenant Colonel Sergey Neroyev, commander of the border troop unit stationed in the town of Khorog, the area's administrative center, has made this statement on local radio. He emphasized that the battalion due to arrive, which is made up of border guards from Kazakhstan and Russia, will be used in full to reinforce the protection of the state border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

In his address the border troops officer tried to dispel various rumors and conjecture circulating in Pamir villages in connection with the impending transfer there of a contingent of CIS peacekeeping forces. The autonomous oblast's leadership believes that the spread and viability of the rumors is to a large extent due to a dire shortage of information to the Pamir population. The fact is that the last flight to the area by a mail plane took place way back in early November 1992, and the area's residents are receiving no newspapers or letters for the fourth month in a row.

State of Emergency To Be Lifted for Womens Day 6 Mar

LD2802232893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2230 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] The Tajikistan Supreme Soviet Presidium issued a decree which has permitted, as an exception, the holding on 6 March in the cities of Dushanbe and a number of other regions of the republic, where a state of emergency and curfew is maintained, of festive meetings and other events dedicated to International Womens' Day. The document stresses that this decision was adopted upon suggestion of the republic's Council of Ministers, taking account of numerous requests from the working people.

Arms Surrendered; Situation Returning to Normal

LD2302092793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0834 GMT 23 Feb 93

[By KHOVAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Dushanbe February 23 TASS—"As many as 3,000 units of firearms, including twenty tanks and armoured carriers have been surrendered to the authorities in Tajikistan. Criminal proceedings are being instituted against citizens and armed groups refusing to voluntarily surrender their arms, ammunition and military hardware. More than 200 criminal proceedings have been instituted so far," Procurator-General of Tajikistan Makmadnazar Salekhov told the republican newspaper "NARODNAYA GAZETA". His interview is published in today's issue of the daily.

"At present, life is gradually returning to normal even in parts of the country recently ravaged by a civil war. The current task of the Procurator's Office is to back the republic's leadership and render it all-out assistance in restoring peaceful life," Salekhov stressed. "The law enforcement bodies regard as their principal task disarmament and investigation of the grave crimes committed during the period when the opposition forces were in power. Special teams have been set up to investigate criminal charges put forth against the leaders of the opposition—Shodmon Yusuf, Turajonzoda and others, who had seized power by force and plunged the people into a civil war, which claimed the lives of thousands of absolutely innocent people."

Abdullodzhanov Highlights Accord With Russia on Fuel, Loans

LD2702171393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1045 GMT 27 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 27 Feb—Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov, chairman of the Tajikistan Council of Ministers, has expressed satisfaction with the results of his four-day visit to Moscow. Speaking in Dushanbe at a briefing for local and foreign journalists, he stressed that as a result of his four-hour conversation with Russian Government head Viktor Chernomyrdin, they had succeeded in reaching mutual understanding on all the matters discussed.

"Despite the fact that Russia is itself experiencing economic difficulties, its government has met us halfway and has decided to provide assistance to Tajikistan in the form of food products, medicines, and fuel and lubricants," the head of the Tajik Government stressed. Furthermore, he added, taking into account the fact that damage from the fratricidal war in the Republic amounts to almost 300 billion rubles [R], the Russian Government has granted Tajikistan a technical credit for the first six months of 1993 at the value of R80 billion. The Russian side has also granted Tajikistan a R40-billion loan to partially pay off the Republic's budget deficit, which is linked with the need to ensure that wages are paid out to employees in the budget-financed sphere.

"As a result of the accord we reached with Chernomyrdin on deliveries to us of 2.5 million tonnes of oil products, the problem of supplying Tajikistan's economy with fuel will be effectively solved," Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov noted.

Today he is expected to leave for the town of Surgut in Tyumen Oblast, where a meeting is to take place between the heads of government of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan.

Prosecutor General on Islamic Party Illegalities

LD2602150993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1053 GMT 26 Feb 93

[By a KHOVAR news agency correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe February 26 TASS—"After the so-called Islamic Renaissance Party—the fundamentalist wing of the world's most reactionary Muslim brothers movement—appeared in the political arena, the struggle in Tajikistan acquired an illegal armed character," says a message of Prosecutor-General of the Republic of Tajikistan Makhmadnazar Salekhov, published in the local press today.

It analyses the factors that led to the national tragedy. According to the Islamic Renaissance leaders, they had 27,000 fighters as early as in 1991. In May 1992 the opposition forces actually staged a political coup in the capital. However, the so-called "National Reconciliation Government", created by the opposition forces, was rejected by the absolute majority of the republic's population. A small group of adventurists, supported by the Kaziate, started an open war against their own people. An economic blockade was organised against the former Kulyab region, which had a population of 800,000. For several months a daily bread ration was 130 grammes. The fundamentalists committed horrible crimes against their nation. Twelve common graves with corpses which are impossible to identify were found in Dushanbe and the adjacent areas. Cases are known when people were buried alive. It remains for humanity to familiarise itself and see for itself the scope of terror and unbelievable cruelty of Islamic fundamentalists in Tajikistan, the message of the prosecutor-general said.

Now Tajikistan is healing its wounds. However, Islamic fundamentalists did too much harm. It became known here that some outcasts, whose hands are stained with blood of our guiltless compatriots, fled abroad and started a dirty campaign of slander against their nation. The lawful constitutional government of Tajikistan is now doing its utmost for putting an end to lawlessness and impunity. We are true to the human rights declaration and other documents that we signed. People may be sure that not a single guiltless person will be arrested and brought to trial, Tajik Prosecutor-General Makhmadnazar Salekhov stated in conclusion.

Turkmenistan

President Niyazov Suffering From Acute Bronchitis

LD2702142393 Ashgabat Radio Ashgabat Network in Russian 0200 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] As is reported by the press office of the president of Turkmenistan, Saparmyrat Niyazov is ill. The Medical Commission of the Turkmenistan Ministry of Health issued an explanation:

On (?16) February he had initial signs of a respiratory viral illness in the form of exhaustion, weakness, and sore throat. On 17 February his health deteriorated; he had pain in [word indistinct], pain in [word indistinct], along with headaches, [word indistinct], and weakness. His sleep and appetite were disrupted. President Niyazov continued (?his work), however, and because of this, his illness (?turned into) acute bronchitis. The diagnosis is acute respiratory viral illness—acute bronchitis. At present a deterioration of health is not observed. A comprehensive examination is being carried out. [Words indistinct] academician [name indistinct], academician Charyyev, [title indistinct] Esenov. We beg almighty God to give President Niyazov a quick recovery.

Uzbekistan

U.S. Helsinki Watch Member 'Deported' From Tashkent

MK0103082093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Feb 93 p 3

[Oleg Panfilov article: "Trial of Poetess-Human Rights Activist. Journalists, Observers Not Welcome"]

[Text] On 25 February court proceedings began against Vasiliya Inoyatova, a well-known Uzbek human rights activist and secretary of the people's movement, Birlik. The poetess and mother of three children is charged with insulting the honor and dignity of Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov, as reflected in the publication by Inoyatova of a poem about a certain ruler who had issued orders to execute people by firing squad. The poem does not mention the president's name but since Uzbekistan knows of just one such instance, when students were shot in January 1992, Inoyatova has been charged with showing disrespect to the present head of state.

The trial was due to take place on 22 February, and Moscow human rights activists arrived to monitor the proceedings—Aleksandr Petrov, a member of the U.S. human rights group Helsinki Watch; Aleksey Tavrizov, member of the Moscow human rights center Memorial; and journalist Vitaliy Ponomarev. Also present was Daria Fein, an official at the U.S. Embassy in Uzbekistan. From the very first minute obstacles began to be raised before the human rights activists—foreign citizens had to ask official permission to attend. In the end the observers walked into the courthouse on their own, but stayed there for only five minutes because judge Ubaydulla Mingbayev declared that the trial had been postponed until 1 March owing to the illness of one jury member.

That, however, was not the end of the human rights activists' problems. After buying a return ticket and walking around the streets of the "grain-rich city," they came to the headquarters of the democratic party Erk to meet with its leader, Muhammad Solekh, and Birlik members. As they understood later on, they had been continually followed. Half an hour later Lieutenant Colonel Muhammadzhon Dekhkanov, deputy chief of Tashkent city main directorate for internal affairs, well known in town for his struggle against human rights activists, walked into the room where the activists were talking with Shukhrat Ismatullayev, member of the Birlik governing board. After giving those present a quick look-over, he retreated, and several minutes later a woman ran into the room saying that the building was surrounded by the militia and that there was no way they could leave. Dehkhanov, who came again, said that it was inappropriate for foreigners to meet members of a "suspended" movement, and that therefore they had to come along to the police station, where investigator Major Abdurafar Khodzhoyev asked the detainees to write an explanation. When they refused, Dehkhanov threatened to declare them persona non grata, meaning that they would not be able to come to Uzbekistan in the future. Their personal belongings were searched and Aleksandr Petrov's service tape recordings were played, while the latter was ordered to disclose what he had discussed with Shuhrat Ismatullayev. When Petrov refused to give testimony in an illegal interrogation, he was threatened with a three-day detention. The incident ended, however, quite peacefully: The detainees were put in a car, taken to the airport, and Tashkent militiamen stood for a long time watching the unwelcome guests depart. Aleksandr Petrov told a NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent that the militiamen understood very well the absurdity of the situation, its illegality, and therefore they were using such an abstract notion as "invitation" [priglasheniye] instead of "detention." Deportation in their language was "assistance in acquiring air tickets." Naturally, Muhammadzhon Dehkhanov reacted negatively to the request to issue some documents certifying deportation and detention.

This is already the fifth time (in the last two weeks) that "foreign" citizens have been deported from Tashkent. On 12 February Hubert Smiths, correspondent of a Dutch newspaper, and photo-correspondent Oleg Klimov were deported.

Meanwhile the trial of Vasiliya Inoyatova continues, and apparently she is facing a six-year sentence.

Armenia

Ter-Petrosyan Ready for Immediate Cease-Fire

LD2802160493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Speaking in an interview with the AILUR agency, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan has expressed readiness on behalf of Armenia and the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic for an immediate cease-fire without preliminary conditions.

President Discusses Foreign Policy Guidelines

NC2602194893 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan introduced new Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan to Foreign Ministry personnel today. Papazyan has been a presidential adviser and Armenia's charge d'affaires ad interim in France.

The president said: I have no doubt that under Vahan Papazyan, the Armenian Foreign Ministry will become one of our most important state structures.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry Press Service informed an ARMENPRES correspondent that Ter-Petrosyan then discussed the main thrust of Armenian foreign policy. In describing the international situation as unstable, the president said it possible to espy, for the foreseeable future, the various directions that international order might take. Armenia's geopolitical location might enhance its international importance. This could also place greater responsibilities on Armenia in its endeavor to calm regional hot spots.

In considering the international balance and predictability of international relations, the president noted the necessity of Armenia's participation in the processes taking place within the CIS as well as in the formation and consolidation of regional international structures. He specifically emphasized the need for Armenia's participation in the evolving structures of the Black Sea Cooperation Zone.

The establishment of stable relations with neighbors is a priority issue for our foreign policy. The president stressed our multisided relations with the Russian Federation. These relations have constituted and will constitute the most important economic, political, and cultural processes of Armenia.

Referring to Armenia's relations with Turkey, the president stressed the importance of establishing stable relations. This is important, even considering the current differences.

The president spoke of the need to develop and deepen relations with neighboring Iran.

Ter-Petrosyan said there is no political impediment or obstacle to developing ties with Georgia, adding: These ties will certainly develop further once the domestic problems in Georgia are solved.

The president said the Foreign Ministry plays an important role in our state and political life, adding: For the last year and a half, important foreign policy issues have been dealt with at the appropriate level. He praised both former Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian and acting Foreign Minister Arman Kirakosyan.

In conclusion, Ter-Petrosyan congratulated Papazyan in the name of those present and said he hopes the foreign minister will honorably discharge the task placed before him.

Vahan Papazyan also addressed the ministry's personnel.

New Foreign Minister Papazyan Profiled

NC2602165593 Yerevan SNARK in English 1131 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Yerevan, February 26 (SNARK)—Today Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan has introduced to the ministry's staff their new chief Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan. Papazyan was born in 1957, graduated the Iran Department of the Yerevan University in 1987, got a master's degree on Armenian-Irani ties. He worked at the History Institute of the Armenian Science Academy between 1980 to 1991, and became the presidential adviser on interparty ties in 1991, was appointed to the charge d'affaires ad interim to France post in 1992. Henceforth February 16, he is the Armenian foreign minister.

7 Demonstrators Wounded in Rallies Said Dead

NC2602154393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 25 Feb 93

[Text] Seven of the demonstrators shot and wounded by police in the recent demonstrations in Yerevan have died in the hospital. Police arrested hundreds of demonstrators during the rallies.

Radio Liberty has reported that the demonstrators protested the government's economic policies and demanded that the Karabakh dispute be resolved.

Nationalist Party Calls For 'Ideological Nazification'

NC2602170093 Yerevan SNARK in English 1131 GMT 26 Feb 93

[The First Meeting of Armenian Nazi—SNARK Headline]

[Text] Yerevan, February 26 (SNARK)—Today the first meeting of the official registered Armenian nationalist party. Shant Harutunyan, the party's leader, has spoken of his political program and estimated the situation in Armenia. He called the aim of the party to come to the power, ideological nazification of Armenia, centralization and militarization of the economy, and also social guarantees for working people. Ara Stepanyan, the party's member, conveyed SNARK's reporter of tight contacts of the party with the Russian party of the same type. The meeting has been decorated by flags with Swastika, lasted about an hour, and gathered around a thousand curious citizens.

Azerbaijan

Elchibey Blames Russians for Regional Instability

OW0103122493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1339 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azerbaijaini President Abulfaz Elchibey who also leads the country's People's Front speaking to a meeting of Front activists in Baku described the situation in the republic as tense. He said the main source of that tension was "outside military aggression and encroachment by outside forces on the country's integrity."

Elchibey said that hard political processes now under way in Russia did tell on the overall situation in neighbouring countries, including Azerbaijan. He said that reactionary forces within Russia's military leadership did not want to lose their positions in Transcaucasia and were trying to foment regional instability to be able to maintain their presence there.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Rome CSCE Meeting

LD2802172393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Tofik Gasymov, Azerbaijan minister of foreign affairs, has set off for the Minsk group's CSCE meeting in Rome with a new 120-day program for settlement of the Karabakh conflict. As the Telefaks program reported, according to this plan, all issues should be resolved during the process of the talks, after a cease-fire.

The PRO-ARMENIYA agency notes that the Armenian leadership has been advocating an unconditional and immediate cease-fire for a long time, besides which, representatives from Nagorno-Karabakh should participate in the talks for them to have full legal status.

Fighting Reported at Sarsang Dam in Nagorno-Karabakh

OW2702101793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1005 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry reported on Saturday [27 February] that Azerbaijani forces had managed to recapture the dam on Nagorno-Karabakh's Sarsang reservoir.

However, the command of the Nagorno-Karabakh Self-Defense Forces said all Azerbaijani attacks had been repulsed, the dam remaining under Armenian control.

Sources on both sides have reported that fighting was resumed on Friday [26 February] in the northern part of Nagorno-Karabakh's Mardakert District after a short lull, and was continuing on Saturday.

According to the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry, on Friday night and the early hours on Saturday, the 128th motorized infantry regiment of the 127th division of the Russian Seventh Army delivered its armaments from Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh via the Lachin Corridor.

The ministry also said that, last night, the Armenians had been shelling villages in Azerbaijan's Kedabek District bordering on Armenia.

Continued Control of Dam Reported

NC2802183893 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] The Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense Analytical Information Center's communique reads:

The situation on the Fizulinskiy front line has been tense during the past two days. Armenian military units in Khirmandzhukh pounded our positions in Kochakhmedli and launched an infantry attack at 1700 yesterday. Our artillery units shelled the enemy forces and forced them to retreat. The Armenians fired on our positions in Kyzylkaya last night. Our military subunits returned the fire and silenced several of the enemy's emplacements.

Intense fighting continued in Agderinskiy Rayon today. Our military subunits maintained control over Sarsang Dam. They rebuffed all enemy attacks.

Alibeyli, Agdam, and [placename indistinct] in Tauzskiy Rayon were fired on from Armenia last night. The situation on the other parts of the front line was relatively peaceful last night.

Armenian Forces Attack Fizuli

OW0103112193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1327 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] After an intensive missile and artillery shelling, Armenian formations, supported by armored equipment from the Russian Seventh Army, launched a major attack Saturday [27 February] night on the town of Fizuli, an Azerbaijani regional center which borders on Nagorno-Karabakh. The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry reported this Sunday in Baku.

Fizuli suffered significant damages and casualties, but the exact numbers are not yet clear. By the morning of February 28, the defense ministry reports, Azerbaijani forces managed to stop the Armenians from advancing to the village of Goch-Akhmedli. A "relentless defensive battle against the overwhelming forces of the opponent" is currently going on in the region of the village.

Last night a motorcade of approximately 15 armored vehicles attempted to get through the Lachin Corridor from Armenia to Karabakh. Azerbaijani artillery destroyed 1 tank and one armored vehicle in the motorcade and set fire to a truck hauling fuel.

President Signs Decree on Victims of 'Armenian Terrorism'

OW2602165793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1557 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to a decree signed by Abulfaz Elchibey Thursday [25 February] "On Immortalizing the Memory of the Victims of Armenian Terrorism," Baku considers it necessary to officially raise the issue of the legal and moral responsibility for crimes committed against the Azerbaijani people before international organizations.

The republic's government and Foreign Ministry have been instructed to prepare proposals on bringing charges against people or organizations guilty of "crimes against the Azerbaijani people or establishing conditions for such crimes" in accordance with international standards.

The president proposed conducting an official registration of all refugees who were forced to seek asylum in Azerbaijan, and prepare a state program for material and moral assistance to the forced migrants.

The president's decree proposed rededicating the former square in Baku named in honor of 26 Baku commissars to Refugees' Square and build a memorial on the square to honor the 1.5 Mn [million] Azerbaijani refugees. Monuments and memorials will also be built in honor of Azerbaijanis who died in Baku and other parts of Azerbaijan.

The cabinet was instructed to form a state commission for investigating and collecting materials on crimes committed by Armenian terrorists against Azerbaijanis since 1988. The materials collected will be published in Turkish, English, Russian, Arab, and other languages and then submitted to international organizations for consideration.

"In the aims of bringing to the world's attention the truth about the innocent victims of Armenian terrorism and the totalitarian regime" Elchibey also proposed publishing the books *The Policy of Genocide Against Azerbaijanis* and *Repression of an Age of Totalitarianism.*

President Confers by Phone With Kyrgyz President

NC2602183993 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] President Elchibey conferred with Kyrgyz President Akayev by telephone today. The two presidents briefed each other on the situation in their respective republics. President Akayev congratulated the people of Azerbaijan and President Elchibey on Ramadan and wished all citizens success.

Presidents Elchibey and Akayev agreed that the leaders of the two republics should hold high-level talks to discuss broadening bilateral relations and signing agreements as soon as possible.

Gas Project Agreement Signed With Turkish Company

LD2602153193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1306 GMT 26 Feb 93

[By AZERTAC-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Baku February 26 TASS—An agreement to launch a joint "Anshad Petrol" venture was signed today between the Azerbaijan State Oil Company and the Turkish "Atilla Dogan" Company. The authorised capital of the new enterprise amounts to 50 million U.S. dollars. Azerbaijan's contribution totals 51 per cent.

According to president of the Azeri company Sabit Bagirov, the joint-stock company will not only help raise oil yields on the old Neftechalinsk fields, but also to increase overall petroleum output by tapping nearby promising deposits. The partners plan to open new workplaces and create conditions for the socio-economic development of miners' settlements. They will also prospect and develop new deposits on the Neftechalinsk oil fields, located 200 kilometres to the south of Baku.

Georgia

Russia's Grachev Arrives in Gudauta To Support Troops

LD2602211893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1812 GMT 26 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Gudauta, 26 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Army General Pavel Grachev, defense minister of Russia, arrived in Gudauta this evening. In a conversation with journalists, he stated that he does not plan to meet with the Georgian leadership to discuss the issue of the withdrawal of Russian troops from Abkhazia during his trip to the North Caucasus Military District. "This issue is tackled not by the defense minister but at an intergovernmental level," he stressed. Commenting on the purpose of his arrival by air in Gudauta, Pavel Grachev stated: "I have just one task: to visit the subunits of our troops in

Abkhazia and Adzharia and to eliminate shortcomings in providing servicemen with all their entitlements."

Pavel Grachev had a meeting in Krasnodar this morning with Nikolay Yegorov, head of the kray administration, and the command of the 49th Combined Services Army. He spoke at the meeting of the need to draw up a state program to develop the North Caucasus Military District and to station in its territory troops being withdrawn from Germany, the Baltic republics, and the Transcaucasus. The main thing is to remove tension among the officers and to direct all the military district's funds and resources to the construction of housing, the minister emphasized.

He gave a positive assessment of the state of combat-readiness of the 49th Army, which in conjunction with units of the Black Sea Fleet and internal and border troops ensures the security of a considerable section of the land and sea border in southern Russia. He expressed his confidence that this formation will be up to full strength in six to eight months.

I do not believe, the minister said, that the situation in Krasnodar Kray is potentially explosive. There is no basis for that.

Pavel Grachev held talks in Novorossiysk with the leadership of the local administration. They discussed problems connected with the redeployment to the Novorossiysk area of the 7th Assault Division [sedmaya desantnaya diviziya] which has been stationed in Kaunas.

Says Russian Troops Will Remain

LD2702122693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1141 GMT 27 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Batumi, 27 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—"Wherever our troops are, Russia has and will have its strategic interests. Russian military contingents are stationed in Georgia temporarily. But the question of their withdrawal can be resolved only by the supreme state leadership of the two countries."

This was stated today by Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation defense minister, at a meeting in Batumi with the command of the 145th Motorized Infantry Division. Taking part in the meeting was Adzharian Supreme Soviet Chairman Aslan Abashidze.

Stressing that the Russian military units stationed on Georgian territory are not interfering in the internal affairs of that state, Pavel Grachev said that his visit to the region is not linked with political goals. His task is to give help to the 145th Motorized Infantry Division in questions of a service and social nature. The division, which is at only 45 percent strength, in cooperation with border troop units, guards a significant section of the Black Sea coastline. The only possibility of increasing the formation's numbers is by signing up volunteers under contract. Drawing the particular attention of the command to the need to ensure the safety of servicemen and military bases, the minister gave the order to shoot to kill when attacked by fighters.

Pavel Grachev expressed gratitude to the Adzharian leadership for ensuring normal living conditions for Russian troops stationed in the autonomous republic.

Shevardnadze Denies Having Phone Call With Grachev

LD2602155893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1440 GMT 26 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi February 26 TASS—Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze's spokesman denied on Friday [26 February] reports that Shevardnadze had a telephone conversation with Russian defence minister earlier in the day.

The denial followed an interview with Russian Ambassador to Georgia Vladimir Zemskiy broadcast by Georgian television on Friday, in which he said that Shevardnadze and Grachev had a telephone conversation.

Shevardnadze's spokesman Revaz Egadze said that Grachev's speech on the strategic interests in Adzharia and Abkhazia on Monday drew a negative reaction in the Georgian parliament.

In his address to the republican parliament on Thursday, Shevardnadze denounced Grachev's speech, stressing that any talks about strategic interests of a foreign state in Georgia are inadmissible. At the same time, he expressed readiness to "meet the Russian defence minister."

Shevardnadze Favors Continued Talks With Russia

OW0103113693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1100 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze said in a traditional Monday [1 March] radio address to the republic that Russo-Georgian relations were again "in a difficult phase." "This produces a certain apprehension not only for me, but also for certain circles in Russia, which believe that the continuation of such a situation is unacceptable for both sides," he observed.

In Shevardnadze's opinion, the situation is made even more complicated by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's visit to the Georgian autonomous republics of Abkhazia and Adzharia and his, "to put it lightly, hasty statements." When the defense minister of another country turns up in a zone of conflict, opined Shevardnadze, "there can be no justification for it, regardless of the kind of argument used."

The Georgian leader also emphasized that he remained a supporter of a continued dialogue with Russia. Reporting that the Georgian parliament was currently debating the question of Russo-Georgian negotiations, he expressed hope that the outcome would be in favor of their continuation. Shevardnadze also hopes that the next round of Russo-Georgian talks will be fruitful. "The documents must be brought up to the needed mark, at which point both sides will decide whether or not they will be signed," he said.

Shevardnadze called Moscow's position at the negotiations "rather negative." In his opinion, Russia would be in favor of the signing at the current stage of a document on the status of Russian forces in Georgia after the Abkhazian conflict is settled, and would only sign other documents if these conditions are satisfied. "Such an ultimatum-oriented approach to the negotiations", said the Georgian leader, "is unjustified."

As regards Russian President Boris Yeltsin's statement at the Civic Union congress of the necessity of giving Russia special authority to assure peace and stability in the former USSR, Shevardnadze said that he had not had the opportunity to hear the announcement, and therefore did not know in what context it was uttered. "Whatever the context may be," he said, "I would like to think that this was an accidental phrase." "And if not," he added, "if the Russian leadership is actually demanding emergency rights with regard to the republics of the former USSR, which are now independent states, I think that this would be an unfortunate statement."

More detailed information regarding Shevardnadze's speech will be available in Interfax's Presidential Bulletin.

Talks Postponed Until 9 Mar

OW0103113993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1101 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Mikhail Ukleba, the leader of the Georgian delegation and the first deputy of the Georgian Foreign Minister, reported to Interfax that the next round of the Russian-Georgian negotiations scheduled for March 1 in Moscow has been postponed to March 9. According to Ukleba, this is not connected "with any complications in the attitudes of the parties." "We have agreed to use this time to improve the issues discussed," the diplomat pointed out.

Allegations on Russians Fighting for Abkhazia 'Groundless'

OW2602185593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1649 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vladislav Ardzinba, Chairman of Abkhazian Supreme Soviet, referred to allegations made by the Georgian authorities that Russian troops fight on the Abkhazian side as "absolutely groundless." He said that these allegations were "crude interference into Abkhazian internal affairs." "For months the Russian units have been acting here on a noble as a peace keeping force, as guarantors of implementing the trilateral accords," said Ardzinba according to the press service of the Abkhazian legislature.

Abkhazia Accuses Shevardnadze of 'Gross Interference'

LD2602155193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1324 GMT 26 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow February 26 TASS—"The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Abkhazia regards Georgian Speaker Eduard Shevardnadze's call for an immediate withdrawal of Russian troops from Abkhazia as a gross interference in the domestic affairs of our sovereign republic," Chairman of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet Vladislav Ardzinba said today, commenting at ITAR-TASS request on the latest demarche of the Georgian leader.

"The Georgian claims that Russian troops are taking part in hostilities on the Abkhazian side are absolutely groundless," he stressed. Russian servicemen have been discharging for many long months a noble peace-making mission, serving as a guarantor of the implementation of the tripartite agreements.

"We are ready to discuss the legal status of the Russian troops on Abkhazian territory," Ardzinba stated.

In the meantime, according to the latest reports received by ITAR-TASS from the press centre of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet, Georgian Government troops today attempted to pierce the Abkhazian defence line in Ochemchiri district. Both sides are using artillery and armoured vehicles in the hostilities. Casualties have been reported.

The Georgian side shelled on Wednesday several villages in Ochemchiri district. They launched an offensive after a fire assault towards the villages of Merkula and Baslakhu. It was stopped by the evening of the same day and the Georgians were beaten back to their initial positions. Georgian troops have lost six tanks, three armoured carriers, and about 80 men killed and more than 150 wounded. The Abkhazians have also suffered casualties.

Fire is being exchanged across the Gumista River. Georgian troops opened fire today morning on Abkhazian positions from tanks and artillery systems.

Georgian troops are continuing to strengthen their defence lines.

Fighting Continues Between Abkhazians, Government Forces

OW0103114193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1100 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Abkhazian Defense Ministry reported on Monday [1 March] that the operation of the Georgian forces, which intended to seize the city of Tkvarcheli of Abkhazia's Ochamchira region, was disrupted. As a result of two-day hostilities the Georgian formations which were trying to break the defense line of the Abkhazian guerillas near the villages of Aradu and Beslakhuba, were hurled back. The Abkhazian units have occupied the village of Merkula. According to the information from Gudauta, the Georgians lost about 100 people dead. Casualties are reported among the Abkhazians as well.

As a result of a rocket-bomb strike conducted by the Georgian aviation on Sunday in the village of Merkula, a 9 year old boy was killed and three people were wounded, the Abkhazian Defense Ministry reports.

Meanwhile, according to the press center of the Georgian Defense Ministry, on Sunday there were no active hostilities in the Ochamchira region.

Artillery shelling was going on along the confrontation line near the Gumista river in the vicinity of Sukhumi. Tbilisi reports that several shells exploded in Sukhumi's living quarters. No casualties are reported.

The chairman of the Abkhazian government Tamaz Nadareishvili, subordinate to Tbilisi, asserted in his interview with the Georgian radio that additional units of the Confederation of the Caucasian peoples, Cossacks, and also Turkish fighters have come to Gudauta. In addition, Nadareishvili said, several hundreds of Russian officers and military equipment were delivered to Gudauta some days ago. Nadareishvili is convinced that the Abkhazians will shortly begin an offense against Sukhumi.

Abkhazians Threaten To Kill Inhabitants of Village

OW0103111893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1327 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Sunday [28 February] Abkhazian units took hostage the entire population of the village of Kvitauri outside Tkvarcheli. As IF [INTERFAX] learned from the Georgian army headquarters in Ochamchira, the Abkhazians are threatening to kill the 500 villagers, unless the Georgian army suspends its offensive in Ochamchira District.

In the meantime the press center of Georgia's Defence Ministry has told IF that on Saturday Georgian troops, having overcome the enemy's resistance, made the Abkhazians retreat outside the villages of Merkula and Beslakhuba in Ochamchira District. According to the ministry, on Saturday more than 20 Abkhazian fighters were killed. The Georgians lost 4 men; 9 others were wounded.

For its part, Abkhazia's Defence Ministry reports fierce fighting in the direction of Ochamchira. Georgia's government troops, having lost about 30 men in the past 24 hours, retreated to their initial positions to regroup their forces.

South Ossetia Calls For Opening of 'Second Front'

OW2602191393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1650 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The delegation of South Ossetia will call on the conference of national and political movements of Northern Caucasus in Nalchik to declare the opening of a "second front" against Georgia, Interfax was told by informed sources.

The conference which will open on Saturday, February 27, will discuss the social and political situation in the region in the context of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict.

In the Kabardino-Balkarian capital South Ossetia will be represented by Oleg Tazieyev, head of the government, and Alan Chochyev, deputy parliament chairman.

Deputy for Ossetian Reunification

OW2702180293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1718 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The deputy head of South Ossetian parliament, Alan Chochyev, declined the rumors about possible announcement of "a front against Georgia, the second after Abkhazia" as instigation ones. At the same time he pointed out in his interview with Interfax that "almost everything is ready for the beginning of a new war."

The deputy head of the Ossetian parliament believes that the cause of the aggravation of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict is the fact that the existing problems "are not solved by political methods."

Speaking about the future of South Ossetia, Chochyev reconfirmed that the reunification of South and North Ossetia within the Russian Federation is the only way along which the Ossetian people intend to go. If Russia's leadership suspends solution of inter-ethnic issues in this region then the republics of North Caucasus "should break the federative treaty" and create "a kind of confederation of the Caucasian peoples," Chochyev says.

Referendum Concerning State of Emergency Initiated

OW2602231993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1931 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A referendum is likely to be held in Georgia on introduction of the state of emergency and giving all power to Eduard Shevardnadze, the head of state.

A demand to hold such a referendum was handed to the country's central electoral board by a group of citizens, the board chairman Merab Alexidze told Interfax.

To call a referendum the group will have to collect 50,000 signatures in support of this demand.

'Armed Protection' Planned for Pipeline to Armenia

LD2702150593 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] The Georgian National Security and Defense Council adopted a resolution on organizing the armed protection of the main gas pipeline from Georgia to Armenia. There have been two acts of sabotage against it recently.

Aid Relationship With U.S., FRG, Turkey Discussed

LD2702175593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Report by IPRINDA correspondent Nikolay Mamulashvili]

[Text] On 26 February, Eduard Shevardnadze, the parliamentary chairman and head of state, received Kent Brown, U.S. ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Georgia. The conversation touched on questions relating to the prospects for further relations between Georgia and the United States. The head of the Georgian state expressed gratitude to Kent Brown and to the U.S. Government for the humanitarian aid that has been provided in the form of 100,000 tonnes of grain sent to the republic.

The U.S. ambassador, for his part, announced that the U.S. Government has decided on allocating a further 55,000 tonnes of wheat to Georgia. Eduard Shevardnadze and Kent Brown agreed on trade relations between Georgia and the United States envisaging the broadening and deepening of commercial contacts, in particular the establishment of a priority regime for goods produced in those countries.

Similar questions and others were considered at a meeting between Shevardnadze and Guenter Dalhoff, Germany's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Georgia, which also took place on 26 February.

Nor is Georgia being ignored by its nearest neighbor, Turkey. Vahir Ocimir, the Turkish charge d'affaires, told correspondents at a news conference that so far the Turkish Republic has provided Georgia with humanitarian aid worth more than $14 million, stressing that $13 million of this sum was used to purchase 50,000 tonnes of wheat, while the rest was used to buy medical supplies and food, of which the Republic of Georgia is experiencing the most acute need.

Estonia

Opposition Unable To Convene Session of Parliament

OW2602194593 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1716 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian State Assembly's press center has said that no emergency session of parliament on March 7 would take place.

Opposition parliamentary fractions [as received] had wanted the session to take place in view of the "incompatibility of the government's defense policy with Estonia's national interests."

The press center pointed out that the republic's constitution did not allow the holding of ordinary and emergency sessions at the same time. This was of relevance now that the second ordinary session had now begun.

The press center said that, if the fractions agreed, defense policy may be discussed during the current session on, for example, March 9.

Minister Says Meri's Statement 'May Spoil' Russian Ties

OW2602130993 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1132 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonian President Lennart Meri's statement, made during the celebrations of Estonia's 75th anniversary, may spoil Estonian-Russian relations, Minister Without Portfolio Juri Luik, who leads the Estonian delegation to the Estonian-Russian talks, told the newspaper POSTIMEES on Friday [26 February].

As we reported earlier, on February 24, the Estonian president accused individual Russian political quarters of trying to depart from the democratic principles and to pursue an imperial policy in relation to the former Soviet republics, above all Estonia.

The president intended to attract the listeners' attention to changes in Russia's domestic policies, said Juri Luik. He expressed doubts, however, whether the celebrations were a proper occasion for doing so.

"His speech signalled a warning and was calculated for foreign diplomats and journalists rather than Estonian citizens," he went on to say. Warnings are always welcome. "But should one fan tensions when the Russian democrats have not tapped their resources?" he continued. "I'm convinced that they still have a great potential," he said.

He also confirmed that in January, following changes in Russia's authority, Estonia's relations with Russia have slightly deteriorated. This refers to economic contacts in the first place, said Juri Luik. He also expressed concern about an increasingly independent role of the Russian Army.

Juri Luik said that like chairman of the Parliamentary Commission for Foreign Affairs Vello Saatpalu, he did not expect major changes to take place in Russian-Estonian relations during the next few years. "However, the talks must not be terminated even if we feel quite desperate sometimes," he said in conclusion.

New Border-Crossing Procedure for Russian Servicemen

OW2602131693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1133 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [25 February], the Estonian government established a new procedure of crossing the Estonian border for Russian servicemen, and annulled the old procedure, adopted by the previous cabinet on August 6, 1992.

From now on, Russian foreign experts, who do not serve in the Russian units located in Estonia, will be allowed to come to Estonia only if their presence helps accelerate the withdrawal of the Russian troops. Corresponding permits will be issued by the government at the request of the Estonian Defense Ministry.

Military aircraft and ships, which are not based in Estonia, will be allowed to cross the Estonian air and sea borders only following the receipt of a permit through diplomatic channels. Applications for permits should be sent to the Estonian Foreign Ministry no later than 5 days before the arrival of an aircraft and 12 days before the arrival of a ship.

Latvia

Foreign Minister Says Real Threat Comes From East

OW2602194093 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1716 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Latvian Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs has said that the real threat to the republic came from the East.

Speaking to Baltfax he said that none of the republics which bordered Latvia had any reason to seize the republic. However, he pointed out that "history itself, beginning with Ivan the Terrible, has shown that our territory has always been of interest to Russia. Everything depends on the nature of the regime of the day, whether this is aggressive or not."

"Russia's official line on Latvia has become more demanding and rigid," Andrejevs remarked. He said that this was primarily due to the conservative forces' gradually increasing influence in parliament.

The minister announced that his first impressions of meetings with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin had been that full agreement with the Russian Foreign Ministry could be reached. But in that event, Andrejevs emphasized, the Russian parliament would draw a line through all agreements reached, accusing the Latvian foreign ministry of dictating Russia's interests.

Regarding the problems surrounding the presence of Russian troops in Latvia Andrejevs expressed his concern over the fact that Russia had not proposed a date for their eventual withdrawal during the last few months. The minister admitted, however, that the deadline proposed by the Latvian delegation was unrealistic. "I think that we should agree on whatever date is proposed by Russia herself at the next round of talks, but only if the Russians do not attach any extra conditions to the withdrawal," the minister stated.

'Popular Front' Parliamentary Candidates Nominated

OW2602215793 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1932 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Latvian Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis, Defence Minister Talavs Jundzis and Agriculture Minister Dainis Gegers have been included in the list of Popular Front parliamentary candidates.

On Thursday [25 February] night Popular Front leaders had a meeting with Supreme Soviet members, nominated by the local chapters of the front as candidates for seats in the 5th Sejm (Parliament). Apart from Godmanis, Jundzis and Gegers the meeting was attended by the members of parliament Janis Freimanis, Janis Legzdins and Juris Gulbis.

In the course of the meeting they discussed the situation in the country and the Popular Front's election campaign plans as well as a draft of the front's election platform named "Be the Owner of Your Land."

The Popular Front says it is the sole organization, which is capable of nominating grass-roots candidates and guarantee democracy in forming its list of candidates.

'Equality' To Take Part in Parliamentary Elections

OW2802192393 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1622 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Riga has hosted the founding conference of the "Equality" movement formed at the initiative of members of Latvia's parliament. The movement is led by Sergey Dimanis, who before last June was a member of Latvia's parliament and the chairman of the parliamentary faction called "Equality."

Addressing the conference, Dimanis said: "Equality" is "a movement formed not only to defend the Russian-speakers, as it might seem on the face of it, but also to protect everyone whose rights are infringed upon." According to him, the movement intends to be guided by the idea of creating "the second republic," as opposed to the restoration of "the first republic" that existed between 1918 and 1940.

The movement intends to uphold the right to Latvian citizenship for all who live in the country. In the economic area it stands for preserving all the industries formed in Latvia when it was a Soviet republic.

According to the leaders of "Equality," their movement intends to start without delay preparations for this summer's parliamentary elections.

The movement's coordinator, MP Tatiana Zhdanok, told BF [BALTFAX] that 28% of delegates to the founding conference were Latvian citizens and 72% Latvia's permanent residents.

Parliament Head Helps Found New Political Union

OW2802192293 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1622 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chairman of Latvia's parliament, Anatolijs Gorbunovs, is one of those who founded a new political union, "Latvian Way." Those who joined the union are members of the World Association of Free Latvians and MPs from the Constitution and Popular Front factions.

A press conference held in Riga on Sunday [28 February] was told that the union will present a unified list of candidates for the parliamentary elections to be held the coming summer. The Latvian Way list will include the chairman of Latvia's parliament, Anatolijs Gorbunovs, Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs, leading members of the World Association of Free Latvians and the heads of the parliamentary Constitution and Popular Front factions.

In the area of economics the new union intends to work out a program of actions for the first 24 months following the parliamentary elections during which, if it wins, it promises to establish a competitive agriculture, ensure privatization for 75% of big state-owned facilities and double the incomes of every family in Latvia in real terms.

Godmanis, World Bank Official Discuss Credit Program

WS0103073393 Riga LETA in English 0833 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Riga, February 26 (LETA)—On February 26 the Chairman of Latvian Council of Ministers, Ivars Godmanis, met the permanent representative of World Bank in Latvia, Lars Jerling. They discussed the second stage of World Bank credit programme. Latvia could receive those means starting with 1994 and they would be invested in modernization of energy system, social field, agricultural development and reorganization of the industry.

They also talked about privatization process in Latvia and the obstacles on its way.

The World Bank representative announced that the head of World Bank Department for the Baltic States would visit Latvia in mid-March.

Monetary Reforms Committee To Make Statement 1 Mar

OW2602200293 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1717 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a session of the Society for Free Latvians of the World on February 25 Latvian Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis stated that on March 1 the Latvian Committee for Monetary Reforms would make a statement on Latvian television.

The Diena newspaper stated that Vice President of the Bank of Latvia Imars Rimsevics confirmed this report, but he declined to comment on the matter, claiming only that the committee's report would not be in connection with the sharp increase in the course of the Latvian ruble which occurred in the republic in the past few days.

Henri Jansons, an expert from the Parex Bank on currency trade issues said that the Bank of Latvia initiated the drop in the course of the dollar, but it is no longer controlling the process.

In recent days rumors have circulated in Riga that five ruble bills will be put into circulation. The Latvian press reported a few days ago that the bills have already been brought into the country and are being held at the Bank of Latvia.

Parliament Sets Internal Debt, Repayment Figures

LD2802164393 Riga Radio Riga International in English 1900 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] The maximum internal state debt is fixed at 7.8 billion Latvian rubles, or one-twelth of the total state budget volume. The draft Finance Ministry resolution, distributed on 25th February to all parliamentary committees, gave the figure and further said the maximum foreign (?debt) for the period until 13th June, 1993, is assessed at 300 million U.S. dollars, which has to be discharged within 12 years. A sum worth 60 million dollars has to be recovered within five years and another 20 million U.S. dollars within a year. In connection with this, Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis addressed the Parliament's presidium yesterday, calling for discussion of the draft at the next plenary meeting. This should be done in a bid to receive the anticipated G-24 loan as soon as possible, which will be extended in accordance with the International Monetary Fund requirement only after Parliament approves the State debt plan. A second prerequisite in the IMF requirement is approval of the budget plan for the fiscal year of 1993. The prime minister said the government is about to gain loans through the Latvian Central Bank, the Bank of Latvia, as well as through the Riga Commercial Bank and Latvia Investment Bank. However, the government takes full responsibility for the loan. The distribution of the loan will be supervised by a special governmental commission, headed by Deputy Minister of Finance Uldis Osis. The Parliament agreed to consider acceptance of the state's internal and foreign debts next week.

First Issue of Official Republic Newspaper Released

OW2602194993 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1717 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The first issue of the official newspaper of the Latvian Republic, Latvijas Vestnesis (Latvian Bulletin) has been released.

The newspaper will come out three times a week and takes the place of the privatized newspaper, Diena, as the official source of information.

The first issue of Latvijas Vestnesis contains articles from Defense Minister Talavs Jundzis and Latvian Ambassador to Russia Janis Peters, an interview with Minister of Economic Reforms Aivars Kreituss, and also official reports.

So far the newspaper is only published in Latvian. In the near future they plan to launch a Russian language version, to be followed later by English and German editions.

Lithuania

President Brazauskas Gives News Conference 26 Feb

LD2702100793

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian at 0807 GMT on 26 February carries a live relay of a news conference given by Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas in Vilnius. The news conference is conducted by Seimas press attache Vilius Kavaliauskas. Brazauskas first gives a brief introductory speech and agrees to reply to questions:

The first question is from a DPA correspondent, who asks: "Yesterday, in your inauguration speech you said that Lithuania would proceed toward the social and political model of Western democracy? Is there a long way to go?"

Brazauskas, after first thanking the correspondent for his questions, says: "I have in mind the consolidation of democratic principles. I would like to say that these principles are being consolidated in our country." After further dwelling on this point, he says: "Of course, we are not going to copy everything blindly. We have our own way, our conditions, we have our environment, we have our problems, which often hamper us in accomplishing what we wish".

An ITAR-TASS Agency correspondent asks: "How do you regard yesterday's escapades and protests which took place during the inauguration?"

Brazauskas replies: "How do I regard them? They did not spoil my mood. I am a realist and I understand that there are people who attempt to do this." He goes on to say: "I have an impression that they are fighting against our state, not against Brazauskas as a person, but against the state. I understand them when they do not like Brazauskas, but when they are against the institution of the president, I cannot justify it."

An unidentified correspondent asks: "My question is as follows: Could you briefly comment on the (?value) of Gorbachev as a reformer and his [word indistinct] game, which has become obvious, speaking about his (?senseless) trial in the society. The second matter, in view of the present military structure which is being formed in Russia and which speaks of the use of force, above all, against the Baltic states, do you not think that one way to stop it would be the formation of a union of the Baltic states?"

Brazauskas replies: "As far as Mr. Gorbachev is concerned I do not think that we should discuss it extensively. Mr. Gorbachev has left the political arena. His endeavors to return, having only a small group of people, hardly have any chance to succeed. I doubt it very much. Of course, one may say that he has not withdrawn from political life, and that he endeavors by every means to take part in it. I admit that these days I do not have much time for a profound analysis of his activity, his speeches and his proposals. Therefore I cannot reply to this questions extensively.

"As far as a union of the Baltic states is concerned, it is a new matter and I do not think that such a union could be consolidated now, because each of our states has its own problems, both in domestic political life, in the formation of national relations, and also in the economy."

The next question is from an INTERFAX correspondent: "You said during the elections that if you were elected president, the government would not change. But we see that there is to be a new prime minister. Did Mr. Lubys no longer have the desire to work, or does he not satisfy you? The second question: May be you could say something to Boris Yeltsin or the heads of other neighboring states?"

Brazauskas replies: "There will be no essentially great changes in the government. Mr. Lubys was deeply convinced in his wish to resign.

"About Russia. I am very grateful to Mr. Yeltsin and the heads of other Eastern states for their congratulations, which I received yesterday. Now I am a lawful president, having taken the oath, our steps should be more concrete and faster; I have in mind the appointment of a representative, an ambassador or an authorized person until the candidatures are coordinated, the establishment of our embassies, trade missions, a delegation for the negotiations with Russia. Mr. Gylys must submit his proposals to me in the nearest future. This would be a very serious and concrete step."

An unidentified correspondent asks: "What were the basic criteria in selecting the candidature of the prime minister? And the second question: When can we expect the introduction of the litas?"

Brazauskas answers: "I have mentioned the criteria more than once and I will repeat them. They are: competence, man's erudition, knowledge, experience in his work and life. He is 45, but he is very young. He started his active work very early. He is very hard working and this has been the basis for his erudition and world outlook. He is a man who understands the economy very well; he has written many serious articles and monographs on various issues concerning the development of the economy. Life has proved that he is able independently to work with foreign firms; he is a president of a joint enterprise, which is flourishing. This is a great quality from the businessman's point of view. In my view, Mr. Slezevicius is suitable to perform these duties.

About the litas, I would like to ask you to give us some time to form the government, introduce order in the affairs of the bank leadership, and then take care of the litas. Until we fulfil these conditions I am not ready to speak of a concrete date for the introduction of the litas."

An unidentified correspondent asks: "Yesterday, in your inauguration speech you mentioned an institution of political parties at the President's Office. What should be its functions and aims?"

Brazauskas replies: "Such an idea has been present for a long time. Furthermore, the opposition supports it, too. I am inclinned to form a council, or a consultative council, or something like it. This would be an institution, a committee or a group including members of various parties and of other political branches and movements. We would meet periodically and talk about concrete issues. We should plan the activity of such council.

"We are facing many matters which must be improved. I have in mind national issues, national relations, the situation of our national minorities, our participation here, possible decisions in this sphere. This would be very good."

An unidentified correspondent asks: "Mr. President, you have selected a candidate to the post of prime minister from that monopolist food processing industry which dictates its conditions both to the countryside and the consumers, with which Prime Minister Lubys has not been able to reach an agreement. Do you think that the new premier will be able to represent the consumers and the countryside? The second question: Is it essential to establish in Lithuania a [word indistinct] of the Wiesenthal center?"

Brazauskas replies: "The first question. I think he will, and not worse than Mr. Lubys. He is an expert in this field. I do not doubt that, being a prime minister, he will accept responsibility for our entire economic activity, for the results of this activity. We have already discussed how to avoid symptoms of monopolism or to reduce them. Of course, administrative means alone will not suffice; economic measures will be necessary to link the interests of both the producer of agricultural products and of the processor of these products.

"As far as the Wiesenthal center is concerned, no decisions have been made. This issue has not been discussed, so I cannot say anything concrete."

An unidentified correspondent asks: "Mr. Landsbergis, speaking of the apppointment of previous prime ministers, said that Prime Minister Abisala was inclined to change the cabinet, but this right had not been granted to him. Will you grant this right to the new prime minister? How do you regard your duties as commander in chief of the armed forces?"

Brazauskas replies: "The Constutition has been adopted. It is valid. The government is being formed in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution. Of course, the Cabinet of Ministers is not formed by a single person, by a single future prime minister or by a president. This is the result of long and very responsible consultations. I am prepared to work this way. I cannot give a concrete answer to this. Everything must be coinsidered, he must get acquainted with the ministers. He must think it over for a few days.

"About being the commander of ther armed forces. I think that during a future news conference I will be able to reply to this. Only one day has elapsed since I became the president and I have not had time to think about it."

An unidentified correspondent, speaking in Russian, says: "I represent the weekly SOBESEDNIK, (?Tokyo SHIMBUN)—I have a contract with them—and an Ostankino program. It would seem that my question to you is a personal one, but it represents millions of television viewers of the former Soviet Union, viewers in Japan, the United States of America, and a part of Europe because these television companies broadcast my programs. I have reached an agreement with your embassy in Moscow and received a confirmation that Mr. President has agreed to give an interview in my program. It seems there was some misunderstanding because I have found a producer—he gave 6,000 [currency not specified] for the trip, but you know nothing about it, and you are the only person who can solve this. I need you to respond in your official status, so that the West knows what has happened and who is in power in Lithuania".

Brazauskas replies, in Russian: "I do not know, there must be some misunderstanding. There were no talks with me. Secondly, this is an honor and a responsibility, but it is not easy for me to do this. There are many affairs..." Brazauskas changes thought, and continues his reply in Lithuanian: "I would like to say that at 1320 Vilnius time next Sunday [28 February] I will appear on the Ostankino screen. Will this not be sufficient?"

An unidentified Lithuanian Television correspondent asks: "Mr. President, you have spoken about a broad coalition. Does the appointment of a new prime minister mean the beginning of a broad coalition?"

Brazauskas replies: "A broad coalition does not mean that it must include representatives of all parties. The Cabinet of Ministers is formed and I am not prepared to propose its reorganization. The broad coalition has proposed that a new cabinet be formed. It has been proposed to representatives of other parties to stay or take part in the government. Not all of them agreed with this. But this does not mean that this principle will not be observed. The notion of this coalition is a government of nonparty people or of heads occupying other state [word indistinct] who are not included in the government. I would mention here the state controller, the state security director: They are nonparty people and this is good."

An unidentified journalist asks: "The former state leader, Mr. Landsbergis, has spoken in a very negative way about antisemitic statements by Mr. Rubavicius, the editor of the magazine LITERATURA IR MENAS, on television and in the press, with the use of the notorious, both nazi and bolshevik (?arsenals). Are you going to join these utterances by Mr. Landsbergis, and what is the official attitude to this by the state circles?"

Brazauskas answers: "I cannot say anything about the state circles. I will demand that these state circles, as you call them, react. I am categorically against such utterances made in an inciting way. There must be reaction, and it will take place."

Brazauskas Interviewed on Current Issues

LD2802194493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1220 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Phone-in interview with President Algirdas Brazauskas, hosted by correspondent Andrey Skryabin; from the "Live Dialogue" program—live]

[Text] [Skryabin] Hello, dear viewers. Today we have a meeting with the president of the Republic of Lithuania, Algirdas Brazauskas. Good day, Mr. President. First of all let me congratulate you on your election to this high post and thank you for agreeing to participate in our program. We are also very grateful to you for giving us the opportunity to hold this meeting in Russian. This will be more convenient for our viewers.

Allow me to present my colleagues. They are MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI columnist Lyudmila Telen, and Mayak correspondent Yuliy Semenov, and I am Andrey Skryabin, an Ostankino correspondent. I want to remind the viewers that a multi-channel telephone system is operating, the code for Moscow is 095, and the number is 217-45-63, and you can phone in questions for Mr. President on that number.

If you do not object, Mr. President, we will begin right away with questions, and at the end we would ask you to sum up our meeting today. So the first question. Tell us please, how do you view, and what is the reason for the victory of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDLP] in the elections to the Seimas and in the presidential elections, and why, in your view, was the Sajudis political bloc—which is a symbol of the independence movement—defeated?

[Brazauskas] There are many reasons here. The first main reason is that the LDLP had an active organizational structure throughout the territory of the republic; the party had a program which it has adhered to since 1989 when we left the CPSU. We adopted a program with a social-democratic orientated content, and we have adhered to it all the years we were in opposition. And our following program, or several programs—there were variants—were realistic. People understood that this is a political force, it is the core of Lithuania's intellectual forces who understand the situation in Lithuania and are capable of proposing—and they did propose—a very specific way out of the difficult situation, especially in the economic sphere. Because the standard of living, economic indices in recent months and of last year before the elections were very indifferent. People felt this and they felt the whole of the reforms on their own shoulders, this burden, the results of the reforms.

People were looking for an alternative. They were looking for that political force, those people who would be able to manage more realistically the economic, social, and political processes in our republic, in our independent state.

[Telen] Mr. Brazauskas, many people are equating your return to the political arena as the president of Lithuania with the return to the political arena in Georgia of Eduard Shevardnadze, in Moldovia of Petr Luchinskiy, and with the fact that in Russia such a group of parties such as Civic Union is gaining prestige. Tell me, what tendency do you see behind these events and do you link them to one single trend?

[Brazauskas] I would not link them up to one trend and one chain because these republics and states have their specific paths of political and social development. In Lithuania, our party has a social democratic orientation, and, as I have said, it has formulated a concrete platform. And a return to some sort of old system, a return to the old political system, is quite impossible. That is unrealistic. Many people are trying to ask what has happened, and whether some sort of analogy can be drawn. I always reply very concisely that people would not vote for the Communists in Lithuania. This means that there is no return. As for the fact that people put their trust in sober-minded and experienced people and leaders, that is the main thing, and, to my way of thinking, it is the fundamental point. That is why the vote went as it did in the voting for the Lithuanian Seimas in October, in November, and in the voting during the presidential elections this year. I would be quite unable to link them to one trend.

Of course, Georgia has its own problems and its own specific character. In my view, it is hardly possible to draw one single line and to generalize and equate everything—these events, these people, leaders who are making their presence felt in individual states which are former republics of the Soviet Union.

[Telen] Don't you think that this is a reaction to the radicalism of previous politicians and a move toward more moderate forces?

[Brazauskas] Yes, it can be evaluated like that. You know the history of the last four years, this period of our life, was very distinctive, very unusual. The national liberation movement, I will not call it anything else, which began in 1988 and appeared in the middle of 1988 in Lithuania, and not only in Lithuania, it required its own leaders. It required its own approach, its own mobilization of the people's spiritual forces. The leaders who headed the movement at that time did a great deal of work. I do not want in any way to lessen the significance of this. But life remains life, it cannot stand still, we cannot just live the political life of slogans and political actions. Everything returns, must return to normal life. I understand that the status of an independent state is an absolute condition for the construction of a society, a civic society, a democratic society. So it happened here that the leaders who were there in the first years did not, I would say, attach importance to the needs of the man on the street, the citizen. Or maybe it was not possible to work on this at the same time. But now we have to encounter real life, and so we need people, the category of people who have a lot of experience—in life, professionally—and specific qualifications are necessary, competence in work, especially in the executive authority. I would say that this process is clearly marked out in our republic's government.

[Semenov] You know, let me, in connection with your last words, ask you the following question. With your name, as far as I know, Lithuanian voters connect hopes that economic situation will be relieved, there will be some social shock-absorbers for the reforms, and the reform policy will be amended. How do you intend to facilitate the position of people? Do you know, your colleagues, leaders of some Eurasian states, try to achieve this by prohibiting subsidies of all kinds and this only leads to higher inflation? Many people in Lithuania also think that they are paid little. I have heard that even procurators of the Lithuanian Procuracy are going to go on strike to demand wage increases. Probably, not at the expense of subsidies but at the expense of something else, perhaps? Could you tell us? It must be of interest to many people.

[Brazauskas] Well, subsidies. People cannot live without money, it is clear. But money should be found somewhere. My main policy is based on the reality of the reforms. We have already started the reforms and now we are switching very painfully to the free market. So far it has produced negative results, in particular, reduction in volumes of production, inability and, perhaps, fear on the part of foreign investors. Our inability to use these credits and a certain fear and lack of confidence on the part of foreign investors. In particular, in a transfer from the socialist method of economic management to the free market, thousands of ways are possible. Here, at this stage, new forces, new economic managers and political leaders can see a result in the reality of implementing the reforms.

We have been implementing the reforms since 1990. But unfortunately some of them were very unsuccessful, especially, in agriculture. I and the majority of the Seimas propose at present that the reforms should be amended in a realistic direction with the least possible losses and expense for a transition to market relations.

This is where I see the source of the effectiveness of these reforms lying, and this effectiveness can already be felt, rather than just being felt in 10 or 15 years' time. Privatization. Everyone is occupied with this, and it is one of the main components of the reforms, but how can it be conducted in such a way that it can be effective and create new jobs so that after these reforms production can be profitable for those individuals and joint-stock companies and so on, and so that it has some effect? This is where it should happen, because reform for the sake of reform yields nothing. I would say that the reality of reforms provides the basis needed.

[Telen] Mr. President, everything you are saying is absolutely fascinating of course, but yesterday you were the opposition fighting for power and you needed attractive slogans, but today you are in power and now you need attractive decisions and some sort of specific actions. I would like to put to you a highly specific question. You spoke of the difficulties associated with land reform. You have to resolve them and, in all likelihood, resolve them very soon. In particular, it is well known that land reform in Lithuania is to some extent being delayed by land being returned to its owners. For this reason, many people are frightened to take up ownership of land. Could you tell me, what specific solution to this problem can you offer your fellow citizens?

[Brazauskas] Our parliament is, in actual fact, occupied with this problem at the moment. These are the main principles. Property should without doubt be returned to the individual. This is indisputable. But on the other hand, this property, and above all I mean land—ownership of land—the land should be used. This is where problems have arisen: On the one hand ownership of land is being returned, land is being returned to its owners, but some of them have turned out to be people living in towns—indeed everyone knew this—and they are the majority. Therefore, having become owners, they are unable to make practical use of this land. And we are now searching for ways to settle, for a way to ensure that the land goes to those who are going to use it, cultivate it, reap a harvest and so on. That is where the main problem lies today.

What are the options? Well, first, there is the sale of land which we have not had so far. We are about to adopt, [changes thought] amendments to our laws will probably be passed in our parliament. Second, there is compensation for ownership in various types of payment, shares, checks, possibly investment checks, money, and so on and so forth. That is the second path. Then there is land leasing to those who will cultivate it.

These are some of the options. But although these are important, there is a still more important matter. Now, with today's crazy prices which are being reflected in production costs in agriculture, the state is obliged to compensate for a proportion of the costs, these production costs. This is what we are occupied with at the moment: What sources can be found and how, and what has to be done to ensure that agricultural production is profitable, if only slightly. That is the second, no less important part of the reforms in agriculture.

[Telen] Thank you.

[Skryabin] Mr. President, excuse me, I would like to propose a small and rapid interview with you; I have many questions from viewers, and if you permit, a brief question, a brief reply.

[Brazauskas] Fire away!

[Skryabin] Novocherkassk, (Yegorov), engineer. Were there any conditions under which Lithuania could at some moment have remained within the USSR, or are those right who say that Gorbachev missed the opportunity?

[Brazauskas] It is of course ruled out that there were any conditions under which Lithuania would have remained within the USSR; there were no such conditions and in my view this question has already been overtaken by events. This is how I would put it.

[Skryabin] (Justaitis) asks from Moscow: Tell me please, Mr. President, will the question of citizenship for Lithuanians living in Russia, in particular in Moscow, be resolved.

[Brazauskas] Yes, a Commission for Citizenship has now been set up under the president and we are now examining these questions which are precisely of the nature as the question that was just asked. I think that in the near future we will look for a way out and on the whole take a decision so as to enable people of Lithuanian descent, Lithuanians, living both in Russia and other states to receive citizenship. Yes, we are now looking into these issues.

[Skryabin] (Korolev, Aleksandr Ivanovich), from Kaliningrad asks: Will former Prime Minister Prunskiene be in the president's team, and what do you think about this question?

[Brazauskas] Well, ex-Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene is now engaged in public activity and will probably continue so; I can also see from her mood that she will hardly join the government. I do not believe she will.

[Skryabin] That is clear. Thank you. (Lauciute), a Lithuanian from St. Petersburg: We congratulate, we convey our congratulations on Brazauskas as president. Does the president consider it advisable for Lithuanians abroad to have the opportunity to take part in the work of the Seimas in the form of one or two representatives as permanent observers with a consultative vote?

[Brazauskas] Well with a consultative vote; such a formula is not envisaged in our country. Yes, many Lithuanians are living abroad, both in East and West. And this question is being asked. However, as things stand, we must introduce amendments into our legislative acts in order to do this. But in principle it is known that our Seimas includes one emigrant, a person from the United States of America who is actively participating. He is a member of our Seimas, he is taking an active part and is the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, so we do have such a representative in the Seimas.

[Skryabin] Now for a question which you could not help being asked. (Borovkov) from Moscow: What is your attitude to the Communist Party of Russia?

[Brazauskas] Well, I have a negative attitude to the Communist Party of Russia, but perhaps that is very subjective of me because in 1988, in 1989, and until the beginning of 1990, I had a great deal to do with these people who are now the organizers of this communist party—I am not naming names—and I realise the hopelessness of it, as a political force, with such an organization, with such centralization, and lagging so far behind the processes taking place in society, and so I do not think this organization has any future.

[Skryabin] Thank you, and a more serious question: (Mironova, Nataliya Viktorovna), from Moscow, asks: Where in your view lies the principal difference in relations between Lithuania and Russia, and Lithuania and Sweden?

[Brazauskas] Ha ha! It is hard to compare these three states— Russia is a very big state. Lithuania is comparatively smaller while Sweden has for long been living in a quite different system, I would say, for many years and centuries, and it is very hard to compare us. But I think that we should be brought closer together, all these three states, by an understanding of each other not only in political affairs but also in economic and social affairs, by understanding and agreement or the adoption of certain common decisions which might determine our relations, so that we might have some links guaranteed by the appropriate treaties and should not deviate from them, because what we have all experienced in these past four years is too much for any person or any state.

[Semenov] Mr. President, I and a viewer from Moscow, (Vladimir Gerbich-Sharapov), have a question. You know Kaliningrad Oblast, its geographical position. Do the inhabitants of this oblast have any grounds to be worried about traveling through or transporting freight across Lithuanian territory from the main part of Russia, and, on the whole, how do you assess the nature and the prospects for relations with this Russian region?

[Brazauskas] Well, of course, Kaliningrad Oblast is next door, and some questions arise among the population of Kaliningrad Oblast. You know that we have certain agreements about Kaliningrad Oblast with Russia. We are adhering to them. So far we have had no such misunderstandings and I see no ground or foundation for such misunderstandings. Well, true, we are already considerably integrated, because crossing Lithuanian territory are the gas pipeline which supplies Kaliningrad and Kaliningrad Oblast, the railway networks and the power supply. Kaliningrad Oblast is in the same power grid as Lithuania. But I think that here, too, we must determine our position because the transport flows into Kaliningrad oblast are fairly significant and we must come to an agreement with Russia—I think that we will do this in the near future—on these tariffs for transit freight etc. But I do not see any grounds for anxiety.

[Telen] I would like to continue on the theme of relations between Russia and Lithuania and Lithuania and Russia. For reasons which we know, the USSR—at first the USSR and later Russia are connected in the consciousness of many Lithuanians with the image of an enemy. This is natural, and we know the reasons for it. Please tell me, at the moment when your party and you personally announced that Russia and Lithuania were equal partners, did you consider that this suggestion could provoke some kind of negative reaction in Lithuanian society, and is there really a danger of this kind?

[Brazauskas] I did not entirely understand your question. You talk about some kind of danger.

[Telen] I will try to express it a little more simply.

[Brazauskas] Sorry.

[Telen] Is there not a danger that Russia is not seen by Lithuania as gently and positively as for example Russia might like?

[Brazauskas] Aha. Now I understand the question.

[Semenov] We are the evil empire [laughter], almost an enemy.

[Brazauskas] No, no, no, no, no such thing, it is, well, you understand, of course there is a certain sector of the Lithuanian population which has its own conception of Russia, which developed as a result of the offenses, the tragic lives of people who spent decades in Siberia and north Russia in Stalin's time, the Stalin genocide policy. Of course we have to understand these people. But the majority of the Lithuanian population does not feel such a, I would say that I do not come across such a, let us say, presupposed concept or attitude toward Russia. Certainly not. All the more so that more than 10 percent of people living on Lithuanian territory are Russians, or maybe not Russian, but people of Russian descent. Now relations are perfectly normal, and we do not feel that any measures need to be taken to, shall we say, reassure. Of course there are questions of citizenship for some people who came to live in Lithuania later. We will have to settle this question. But you know, this was maybe more obvious at the first stages, but now, recently there is no such thing.

[Semenov] I might have spent a little more time in Lithuania than my colleagues. I have many friends there, and I have traveled extensively through your country. As someone who likes Lithuania, I am concerned at your environmental problems. I once had the chance to travel almost from one side of Lithuania to the other along the Neman, or Nemanas as Lithuanians call it. I have seen how polluted the Kurshskiy Bay is, the degree of pollution in the rivers near your famous resort towns of Birstonas and Druskininkai. Finally, I took a vacation in autumn, September, last year in Palanga, which is a lovely place, a natural paradise. But you can step on a lump of oil at any time. But there are problems that you cannot solve under your own steam. Do you have any suggestions or thoughts about coordinating the states in the region to tackle environmental issues? The green lobby in your country is calling for that.

[Brazauskas] Well, I think that everyone has environmental problems. That includes us, because our main rivers flow into the Baltic Sea. There is the Neman, which goes through most of Lithuania, and it flows into the Kurshskiy Bay and the Baltic Sea. There are many problems, and we are now building huge sewerage facilities in Kaunas and Klaipeda. The construction work is not going as well as we would like, mainly because there is not enough money. But you see, the Neman also flows through Belarus, and we have had some unpleasantness, I should say, because Grodno is a major town with a large industrial sector. It is a bit of a problem spot. That is on our side, but on the other, in Kaliningrad Oblast, there are large cellulose and paper factories, and enterprises and towns like Neman and Sovetsk unfortunately to this day pour their waste straight into the rivers. They are also building purification facilities but it is going very slowly.

I would formulate it as follows: Everyone should take of the Baltic Sea. We should take care of it, and Latvia, and Estonia, and Russia, and Poland and all the other states. As I understand it, these questions have been solved by the Scandinavian side much earlier than we encountered them. Bearing in mind our present limited financial possibilities, we have asked the Nordic Council to work out a program of ecological defense of the entire Baltic basin. This could help us in our rather difficult financial situation.

[Skryabin] Thank you very much. Let me answer a question addressed to me. (Sergey Alekseyevich Kapitanov) from Moscow is asking who financed this program. I would like to answer that this program has been financed by both Lithuanian television and Ostankino.

Now, if you will allow me, Mr. President. I have my own question for you, rather than a question from television viewers. We often speak about interests of one or other state in various regions. For example U.S. interests in Asia, U.S. or NATO interests in the Baltic region, etc, etc. Similarly Russia has its own interests in the Baltic region. These interests range from ports to communications, from national security to problems of the Russian population. There is a similar situation in Lithuania. It has certain interests in Russia. Tell me, which of Russia's interests are acceptable to Lithuania?

[Brazauskas] You have already mentioned some: First, use of Baltic Sea ports, for Lithuania specifically as well. I believe that Klaipeda port presents a very convenient outlet to the West, also for Russia, and we can have reach a concrete agreement on this issue. On the other hand, the possibility for the West to reach the Russian market via the Baltics, and specifically via Lithuania, presents a certain interest for both Russia and ourselves. Lithuania is already busy setting up joint ventures, and also some trading companies, which coordinate and manage the influx of goods which Lithuania needs, but this line can be extended to the east, to Belarus, Russia, Ukraine and beyond. It will be very convenient to channel through Lithuania commodities and interests from the West to the East. This will also be in our interests, accordingly. This is a second thing which is in Lithuania's and Russia's mutual interests. There are many other opportunities, because in Lithuania a number of organizations have been cooperating for decades with those based in Russia: these links, the knowledge of the language, customs and traditions, Russian economy—these are the things which will help solve this issue positively. This influx, as it were, may be channelled into Russia from the Baltics.

[Skryabin] Thank you. And what of Lithuania's interests in Russia?

[Brazauskas] They are very great, very great interests. At present we after all obtain 100 percent of our energy resources from Russia, roughly 60 percent of industrial raw materials, components and so on too, and, without a doubt, those contacts which were established over decades do exist. I understand that both Lithuania and Russia have interests, and have alternative economic and trade contacts, that is all normal, but today we have to see, and we see the realities which exist, and the dependency of the economy is a fact. But we are of course looking for ways to find other partners and we will do this, but that which exists has to be utilized, especially since although our volumes, compared with Russia, are of course small, Russia does have interests in our country, in the production of specific units, components, assemblies both for the radio industry and for others, this is a large interest too.

[Semenov] Can you tell me please, at present you are setting up direct economic contacts with Tatarstan. Is this a one-off effort, or is it, so to speak, the start of a new trend in direct contacts with separate regions of Russia? How does it seem to you?

[Brazauskas] Well, it is a kind of, so far it is the only such case. There were certain interests of Tatarstan, but I do not think that this is bad. I think that the more autonomy in specific affairs of such economic commercial relations, it is very positive. For example, we are also encouraging such contacts between our separate towns and regions, direct contacts in trade. We can no longer put all our commercial and economic relations solely on a state footing. After all there are thousands of routes, and in free market conditions it is absolutely natural that between individual regions, organizations, concerns, and whatever other such economic management structures there are, our structures will have contacts with the Russian ones. In my view this is completely natural.

[Telen] I would like to return to politics once again. Your predecessors, Mr. President, were actively involved in revealing past ties between politicians, who are active now, and the KGB. Also, a blueprint of the depolitization bill was tabled in the Seimas, as you remember well, no doubt. Could you tell whether you and your party are intending to continue this line?

[Brazauskas] Oh, no. In no way. Of course, people who participated in genocide, providing these people are exposed, must be held responsible personally. No doubt about that. But there cannot be collective responsibility of a group of people. We do not support this, I have never supported this and this only leads to tension in society and distrust between people. And I, at my post, and the Seimas, the majority of which is the Democratic Labor Party, we do not encourage these things in any way and we are not going to encourage them in the future.

[Skryabin] Thank you very much. Could I return, if I may, to viewers' questions. This is the question of the Baltic news service: Mr. President, will you insist that organizers and executors of the January 1991 events be extradited from Russia?

[Brazauskas] Yes, I believe we should come to an arrangement with Russia. Those people who were actively involved in that bloodshed, or orchestrated those events, should bear responsibility—it cannot be otherwise! For two years those people have remained unpunished, and agreement has not been reached so far.

[Skryabin] Thank you. (Cherkesskiy, Grigoriy), from Moscow, is asking what is your main policy of economic orientation: toward the West or toward the former USSR republics?

[Brazauskas] Well, I cannot give a simple answer. All I can say is that it is orientated both toward the West and the East.

[Skryabin] Thank you. (Marina Speranskaya), from Moscow. When will there be a permanent ambassador to Russia?

[Brazauskas] In the very near future, I would say in the next 10 days.

[Skryabin] (Svetlana Arsenyevna Fedorova), also from Moscow, is asking whether in the next three years or so there will be the same degree of friendship, understanding, and support between our countries as between Russia and Kazakhstan?

[Brazauskas] I think so.

[Semenov] I have the last question. We have a very serious discussion, but my question is not very serious. Do you know what is a Napoleon complex? This is when short men try to fulfil themselves in politics and especially by striving for power. But now the situation seems to be changing. You are a man of large proportions, so is Chancellor Kohl, and so is President Yeltsin; is there anything serious behind it, do you think?

[Brazauskas, laughing] No, I do not think so. I proposed the candidacy of a certain 45-year-old man for the post of the republican prime minister. This man is two meters tall. Obviously his height is incidental, I proposed his candidacy on the basis of his knowledge, but he is also of such height.

[Skryabin] Thank you very much. Mr. President, we have two minutes left before the end of the program. The final word is for you.

[Brazauskas] Thank you. I am happy to have an opportunity to appear on Ostankino television. I think many people know and remember me. I am always happy to participate and to cooperate since for many years I was connected by work with people in Russia, in particular, in Moscow as well as in other cities. I would like to wish all the best to all citizens of Russia and of other republics who watch Ostankino television. All the best, and I would like to say that Lithuania will cooperate and seek mutual understanding rather than be guided by fictitious, often groundless, reasons for not cooperating.

[Skryabin] Thank you again for taking part in our program. We thank you, also the viewers who have stayed with us for 40 minutes. I hope that you will be guest of our program in the future.

[Brazauskas] Thank you and good-bye.

Prime Minister Candidate on Government Personnel

OW2602193393 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1716 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Adolfas Slezevicius, a candidate for Lithuanian prime-minister, said that he had never wanted to know the politics of the personnel; rather, their professional training and competence had been all-important. On the other hand, top officials and heads of ministers "must back the president's policy in every possible way."

Questioned by members of the Sejm he said that foreign investments in the country's economy are highly desirable. He thinks that now no clear cut policy of attracting them exists. He called for setting up a foreign investment evaluation service and expressed his view that an effective system of state guarantees has to be put in place.

Asked about introduction of a permanent national currency, Slezevicius said that this should have been done earlier and the optimal time for doing so had been missed. The candidate thinks that in the actual economic conditions introduction of a national currency must be contingent on the economic situation and that it would be irresponsible to specify the date when a national currency will be in circulation.

Government To Increase Salaries, Pensions 1 Mar

WS0103073093 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1406 GMT 26 Feb 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 194]

[Text] 26 February 1993—The Government has adopted a decision according to which, from March 1 salaries for employees of budgetary organizations and institutions will be increased by 15 percent. Pensioners who are not working will receive a pension and compensation increase of 20 percent.

Families having small children, as well as families having three and more children up to 16 years old will receive 400 talonas for each child.

The Government has also adopted the minimum living level—2210 talonas per month for a person, the minimum monthly salary—2350 talonas per month and the minimum payment per hour 13.8 talonas. The income by the state for each member of a family will make 1990 talonas per month.

Government Doubles Price of State-Subsidized Bread

OW2602193093 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1715 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Beginning March 1, Lithuania is raising by 100% the price for the state-subsidized rye bread.

Knowledgeably, illegal export of cheap bread to the neighboring countries, especially to Latvia, became especially prolific in the recent days. As a result, most of the towns and cities in Northern Lithuania are suffering major financial losses, for even the local residents do not have enough bread for themselves.